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## Judge bars the production of Torres' bank records for now

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
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REPORTER

Superior Court judge pro tem Arthur Barcinas has ordered that no documents be produced, including the financial records of former governor Ralph DLG Torres, while he reviews arguments of both parties in the ongoing criminal case against the ex-governor.



Kingman

During a hearing yesterday, Barcinas heard arguments from the Office of the Attorney General's special prosecutor

See JUDGE on Page 4

### 'DPW has control of IPI building as it has responsibility for building code'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Commonwealth Casino Commission board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero and vice chair Rafael S. Demapan said Wednesday that,

rather than the CCC, it is the Department of Public Works that has control over the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's casino/resort building in Garapan as it has responsibility of enforcing

See DPW on Page 4



Former governor Ralph DLG Torres appeared before Superior Court judge pro tem Arthur Barcinas yesterday to discuss pending matter in the criminal case filed against him by Attorney General Edward Manibusan.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

## CUC extending Aggreko contract anew

**'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN**  
Days until  
'touchback rule'  
takes effect on  
Sept. 30, 2023:  
**116**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Terlaje

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is extending for one year its contract with power provider Aggreko, according to acting CUC executive director Betty G. Terlaje.

Terlaje said in an interview Friday that the renewal will be done by the end of the week and that the extension is for one year.

"We're still talking legality for

See CUC on Page 4

## IN CASE OF DPS OFFICERS ACCUSED OF ILLEGAL OT OAG reviewing evidence for possible prosecution

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

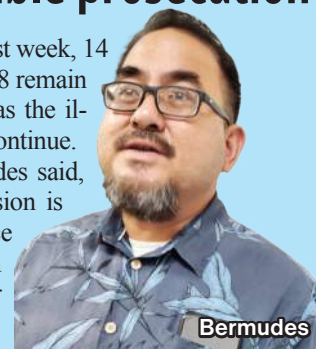
The Office of the Attorney General continues to review the case of 14 Department of Public Safety officers who have been accused of acquiring hundreds of hours in illegal overtime.

DPS Commissioner Clement Ber-

mudes said that, as of last week, 14 officers of the original 28 remain on administrative duty as the illegal OT investigation continue.

At this point, Bermudes said, the OAG criminal division is reviewing the evidence from the investigation and will decide whether

See OAG on Page 4



Bermudes

## INSIDE



### BUSINESS

Saudi Arabia will reduce how much oil it produces, in a step to prop up the sagging price of crude.

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### WORLD

Russia's Defense Ministry announced its forces have thwarted a Ukrainian attack in Donetsk.

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### LIFE & STYLE

Prince Harry's battle with the British press is headed for a showdown in a London courtroom.

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## Local



Ageline Sahagun Salas poses with her parents, Ruben and Yolanda Sahagun, after graduating from the Weill Cornell School of Medicine in New York City, New York, last May 18, 2023.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Unstoppable: Daughter of the CNMI shares story behind her drive

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**  
chrystal\_marino@saipantribune.com  
CORRESPONDENT

After much hard work, another daughter of the CNMI earned a medical degree, with Ageline Sahagun Salas graduating from the Weill Cornell School of Medicine in New York City, New York, last May 18, 2023.

Born and raised on Saipan, Sahagun, a Marianas High School alumna and a former student of the Guam Community College and the University of Guam, was joined by her parents, and family members for her graduation in May, which turned yet another chapter in her medical journey.

Salas acknowledges that the road had not always been an easy one. "I would be dishonest if I said that this journey was easy," she said. "Many people see the endpoint but do not see the grit, sweat, and tears that are needed for this process. There were many things I had to do in order to even be on par with my peers. I had to actively seek out different opportunities for myself because of my unique circumstances."

It was the medical challenges of her own parents that kept her driven throughout the years. "Growing up I saw how the lack of doctors and resources affected both my parents' health when they were both diagnosed with cancer at two different points of my life. I come from a low-income family and during one of our hardest moments, my family had to go into debt to pay for my dad's treatment. My mom was diagnosed at a later time and, fortunately, had health insurance that covers most of her medications and travel costs to see specialists off-island," Salas said. "I know I am not the only person in the CNMI that has experienced something like this. There needs to be more awareness of the unique health disparities that people in the CNMI face. I hope that by practicing medicine, I can be an advocate for this community and maybe heal some people along the way."

Salas shared that her financial situation had also become a challenge in itself. "My parents did not have money for tutors or opportunities that would make me stand out as an applicant for medical school. Instead, I applied to multiple summer internships in my undergraduate years that would cover the costs of travel and provide a stipend so that I could save money for med school applications.

I also took two gap years after UOG to build my research skills and study for the MCAT (the examination for prospective medical students). I found mentors that helped me establish nonprofit organizations with the goal of inspiring Pacific islander youth to go into STEM fields. All this is just to apply to medical school."

The journey isn't over for Salas yet, nor is her drive. She shared that she recently matched into her first choice residency program at the University of Arizona COM in Tucson, where she will be specializing in both Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine. "After residency, I want to practice as an attending physician in the mainland for a few years and also practice every few months in the CNMI and Guam," Salas said. "My end goal in my career would be to eventually use my platform to establish connections and create programs that will encourage budding physicians from the CNMI and Guam. I want to be able to lower the burden and break down the barriers that exist so more Pacific islander youth can become medical professionals."

When asked how she feels about her accomplishments, especially coming from what others say is a "tiny island," Salas replied: "I think I was able to accomplish something like this *because* I came from a small island. I learned to be resourceful, compassionate, and resilient because I was raised on Saipan. What I advocate for in my daily life as a new physician is a reflection of the needs of my island community."

Salas hopes that, by sharing her story, people learn not to be discouraged by their background, but instead find strength and value in those experiences. "I was able to reach this far despite being the first in my family to graduate from college and despite being from a family that was struggling financially. Do not limit yourselves. Be proactive, seek mentorship, and follow a path that is authentic to you."

Salas also shared her gratitude to the ones who have made her journey possible. "I would like to first thank God, my parents Ruben and Yolanda Sahagun, my husband, Ryan, and the many friends that have supported me throughout my journey. Lastly, thank you to the CNMI community, who have always been my source of inspiration."

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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# Deleon Guerrero: NMC's \$18.7M budget request not a wish list

» Eliptico says economic impact of all federally funded NMC building projects is \$200M going into NMI economy

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero said yesterday that the \$18.7 million budget they are requesting for the college for fiscal year 2024 is not a wish list but is what they actually need.

Additionally, Frankie Eliptico, who is the NMC vice president of administration and advancement, emphasized that the economic impact of all federally-funded construction projects for NMC is approximately \$200 million that will be going into the CNMI economy.

Speaking at the Ways and Means Committee hearing at the House of Representatives, Deleon Guerrero said their \$18,781,360 appropriation request is what they need and that they are not high-balling it.

"We're not kind of entering a negotiation phase where we come in high and then you come in low and then we meet somewhere in the middle," he said, adding that NMC has demonstrated clear, responsible financial stewardship, with



Deleon Guerrero

15 years of clean audits.

Deleon Guerrero they were recognized for the recent accreditation visit and evaluation which gave NMC an eight-year accreditation term, the longest in the college's history.

He said the accrediting team and the accrediting commission are both mindful of how they were able to take their limited financial resources and manage them well in such a way that they never ran a deficit, and they paid all their bills on time. "And we continue to provide quality services to our community. So we come before you today to let you know that you can trust us with your investment," the NMC president told the committee, chaired by Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan).

Deleon Guerrero said they understand that the CNMI government has very limited financial resources, but it is their hope that by the end of their presentation, the committee will see that the return on investment in NMC is ex-

ponential for the CNMI.

In his presentation, Eliptico provided an update on the NMC buildings that are coming up. NMC received millions

of dollars in federal funding for the NMC buildings that were obliterated by Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018.

By really looking at it, Eliptico said, the CNMI will get \$200 million for the \$20 million investment in NMC, taking into account the con-

struction costs, the direct costs, the indirect costs, and the induced costs.

"I hope that you see it that way. That NMI is not an expenditure, but an investment. And it's not just whether we can do construction, we need people to run procurement,

we need people to run finance, we need people to run [human resources] to be able to hire people needed to push these projects along," he said.

Other NMC officials also conducted presentations about various programs and services that they offer.



## RAFFLE WINNER

Margarita DLG Camacho was the lucky winner of a 55" HiSense TV through the Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. Giveaway that ran during the months of April and May. Also in the photo is Camacho's husband, Ricardo Camacho, and members of the staff and management of the company. Pacifica Insurance is a full line agency offering insurance coverage for homes, cars, businesses, and specialty lines on Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## NMC's fall 2023 info session on June 14

Northern Marianas College is inviting all community members who are interested in advancing their careers and furthering their education to attend NMC's free information session on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in the Olympio T. Borja Library at the college's As Terlaje campus.

The session will cover topics that include financial aid options and admissions.

Participants of the info session will qualify to have their application and placement test fees waived for NMC's upcoming fall 2023 semester—a savings of about \$75.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a Bachelor of Science in Education (Concentration in Early Childhood Education, Elementary Education, Rehabilitation and Human Services, or Special Education), Bachelor of Science in Business Management (Concentration in Accounting or without Concentration); Associate of Arts in Business, Associate of Applied Science in Business Administration (Emphasis in Accounting, Business

Management, or Computer Applications), Associate of Applied Science in Hospitality Management, Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts (Emphasis in Education, Health and Physical Education, Pre-Engineering, Social Work, or without Emphasis), Associate of Science in Nursing, Associate of Science in Agriculture, Associate of Science in Natural Resource Management, Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice, and Associate of Science in Fire Science Technology. The certificate programs

at NMC include Basic Law Enforcement, Business Management, Computer Applications, Early Childhood Education, Fire Science Technology, Hospitality Operations, Nursing Assistant, and Small Business Management.

NMC's fall 2023 semester will begin on Aug. 21, 2023. A list of the classes that are offered can be found at [www.marianas.edu](http://www.marianas.edu). For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6769/70/71/72 or email [oar@marianas.edu](mailto:oar@marianas.edu). (NMC)



## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

**The Position: Accountant and Auditor**

**Job Description:** Examine, analyze, and interpret accounting records for the purpose of giving advice or preparing income controls over financial reporting, or other agreed-upon external audit report. As a member of Audit Team, he/she will examine financial and accounting record and other documents, ask a range of questions from formal written questions to informal oral questions to support the Independent Auditors and he/she must provide support, technical assistance, direction and review the work of all staff members assigned to the engagement. Prepare CNMI, Guam and Various US States individual & corporate income tax and other compliance taxes.

**Minimum Qualifications:** MAJOR IN BUSINESS OR FINANCIAL RELATED

**Job Site:** Saipan, CNMI

**How to apply:** Submit a professional resume to:

**BURGER & COMER, P.C.**  
Office Address: Suite 203, MHI Building, Marina Heights, Business Park, Saipan,  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

**Mailing Address:** P.O. Box 504053, Saipan, MP 96950



## COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



### INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-23-015

#### SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS FOR CUC TINIAN, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for CUC Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for "Commodity Groups".

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-23-015, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for CUC Tinian, CNMI" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 12, 2023**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. An electronic copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent via email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address, [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 22, 2023** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org), with a copy to Evelyn Manglona, CUC Tinian Resident Manager, via email [evelyn.manglona@cucgov.org](mailto:evelyn.manglona@cucgov.org), Louella Mundo, CUC Warehouse Technician via email [louella.mundo@cucgov.org](mailto:louella.mundo@cucgov.org) and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Administrative Technician at [marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org](mailto:marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE  
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLON  
Purchasing Administrator



## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### PSS EIP records to be destroyed

The Public School System Early Intervention Program would like to inform parents of infants and toddlers who received Early Intervention Services from 2019-2020, that your child's records are no longer needed by the program therefore will be destroyed in a manner that ensures all personal identifiers are removed

from the record and the record is no longer personally identifiable.

The Early Intervention Program will maintain indefinitely a permanent record of your child's name, address, phone numbers, entry date, exit date, and eligibility information.

Records, other than the permanent information listed above, will be destroyed 30 days from the date of this notice.

For any other information, call Robin Palacios, director, Early Inter-

vention Program, at 664-4841. (PR)

### 4.5-magnitude quake north of Guam

At 11:12am on June 5, 2023, a report of a 4.5-magnitude earthquake occurred 12 kilometers north of Yigo village, Guam. Currently, there are no reports of injuries or damages and no Tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State

control of the IPI building. What the CCC does have control is the gaming devices in the building.

He said an auction is ongoing at IPI and some of those equipment still have the Commonwealth's seals on them.

"So basically we are working closely with the securities for the IPI to ensure that Commonwealth's interest and CCC's are well protected," Demapan said.

The vice chair said they constantly work with securities of IPI in making sure that "accountability is No. 1 because of the Commonwealth seal."

Demapan said he was able to meet with Yumul just recently after the second article came out about the inspection issue. He said he told Yumul they should also invite other agencies such as the Fire Department because it deals with the safety of the building.

Demapan said DeLeon Guerrero did mention about the building code as DPW's responsibility and not CCC's.

Demapan said he suggested that they should come together such as this CCC board's regular meeting and see how they can closely work together and take this venue as a conduit for them to get together so that it is easier to discuss the main issue.

He said they constantly go to the IPI building site, in ensuring that whatever merchandise or items that have been auctioned off are well accounted.

Demapan said that's basically why they are here, to ensure that the Commonwealth seal is well protected.

"It may appear that we're not doing anything, but we are doing something to protect the interests of the CNMI government," he said.

than the court.

"Additionally, the subpoena is not authorized by law as the special prosecutor's appointment, contract, and admission status are invalid, which means the validity of the subpoena depends, upon other things, on the validity of the special prosecutor's appointment, contract, and admission status. Until the validity of the special prosecutor's appointment, contract, and status is resolved, the subpoena cannot be deemed to be authorized by law," the defense team said.

The defense also argues that the prosecution is simply saying it wants to investigate Torres' expenditures because it wants to and not because it is related to any legitimate law enforcement inquiry.

Also, Torres' attorneys argued that because Torres is married, the subpoena does not make any effort to protect his wife's privacy interest in the marital bank account.

DeLeon Guerrero said they have repeatedly requested DPW in the past to take down IPI's crane tower No. 5. He said tower No. 4 and 5 were originally the threat, but No. 4 has been taken down. "But No. 5 took forever for them to remove the most dangerous part," DeLeon Guerrero said.

He said they invited the then-DPW secretary in almost every meeting for over a year.

DeLeon Guerrero said they have asked the assistant attorney general assigned to the CCC to talk to the AAG assigned to DPW to discuss the matter.

"I asked them if those cranes fall down, who's liable? The Commonwealth. I will be the first one to line up and testify against the Commonwealth because I've been screaming at them and everybody here understood that we don't have any authority," the chairman pointed out.

DeLeon Guerrero said Yumul apparently addressed the matter to Demapan so they will figure it out.

He reiterated that the CCC cannot take the lead when it comes to labor violations, Occupational Safety and Health Administration violations, building code violations, and Zoning violations.

DeLeon Guerrero said they are not the primary entity, but will stand by any of the agencies to assist them in enforcing those regulations.

Demapan, on the other hand, said he was surprised when he saw something in the news about him holding on to DPW's request for approval to inspect the IPI building.

As a result of that news article, Demapan said, he visited DPW and informed them that the CCC has no

ing on the subpoena. Kingman was tasked to relay this message to the Bank of Guam.

"The judge ruled that, before a final ruling, that the Bank of Guam, [to whom] the subpoena was directed to, to hold their documents and not transmit them until they hear otherwise. So I will get that order over to them," said Kingman after the hearing.

Back in May, the OAG issued a subpoena *duces tecum* to obtain Torres' Bank of Guam account records. This type of subpoena essentially requires a person to produce certain documents, records, or other tangible items in their possession, custody, or control.

In opposing the subpoena, Torres, through his defense team, asked the Superior Court to quash the request. According to Torres' lawyers, the subpoena ultimately does not comply with the law. It noted that the subpoena improperly directs the documents to be handed over to the OAG rather

Warning Point at 237-8000. (PR)

### Youth Congress session on June 17

The 1st Day, 2nd Regular Session of the 19th CNMI Youth Congress is scheduled for Saturday, June 17, 2023, at 11am in the House of Representatives chamber. (PR)

### Scheduled power service interruptions

There will be a scheduled power service interruption for the area(s) listed below:

**THURSDAY, June 8, 2023, from 9am to 1pm**

**Area(s) affected:** As Perdido; Aplok Dr., Bayak Dr., and Faha Pl.

**Purpose:** For the line crew to cut and clear a number of trees near primary lines.

No water well(s), wastewater facil-

ities, or traffic lights will be affected.

**FRIDAY, June 9, 2023, from 9am to 1pm**

**Area(s) affected:** Lower Dandan; Holiday Dr., Independence Loop, and Natibu Pl.

**Purpose:** For the line crew to cut and clear a number of trees near primary lines

No water well(s), wastewater facilities, or traffic lights will be affected.

For the safety of our crew, motorists are advised to use caution while driving in the area.

For more information, contact the automated CUC hotline at (670) 236-4333 or contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282 or visit [www.cucgov.org](http://www.cucgov.org) and monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates at [www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation](https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation). (PR)

## CUC

From Page 1

the change order but it looks good for CUC," she said.

Terlaje said the board had approved the first time the renewal came up, so this is just a change order to extend the contract under the same emergency declaration.

She said Aggreko is needed as the new power engine No. 4 at Power Plant 1 in Lower Base is still not up.

"There were some hiccups with engine No. 4. It was difficult to bring in. It was stranded in Singapore or Korea," she said.

Terlaje said there is a change order for the engine manufacturer, Man B&W Diesel, that's being prepared because there's some work that need

to be done with the crane on Saipan for the engine.

Last March, then-acting CUC executive director Dallas M. Peavey Jr. said the new power engine will take several months to install and, if they still need Aggreko to ensure there is enough power for Saipan's use, then they will have to extend that contract again so they will have sufficient power supply capacity.

The power purchase agreement with Aggreko started in 2019, with CUC paying Aggreko a fixed monthly cost of \$302,400, according to the transition report to CUC.

The original contract with Aggreko was to provide temporary power for 90 days while CUC's generator engines are being overhauled and repaired. The contract was then extended several times.

## OAG

From Page 1

to prosecute these individuals.

"With the 14 remaining, we're in coordination with the Attorney General's Office who is actually reviewing the files before they are prosecuted. They'll determine whether to charge them or not based on the facts and evidences in these cases. Those remain pending. [However] as you know, the Office of the Attorney General is bombarded with cases," he said.

"The remaining 14 [are still] under investigation and they remain on administrative duty. They cannot participate in any law enforcement functions at this time," Bermudes added.

Should any of the remaining officers be found unqualified to return to duty, Bermudes said in a previous interview that criminal charges will likely be filed against them.

"If they don't qualify to return to full duty, then more than likely criminal charges will be filed against those officers," he said.

Meanwhile, when asked about any resignations, Bermudes said it's looking like one of the 14 remaining intends to resign.

"One is looking at resigning but once I can confirm that, we will let the community know," he said.

Back in May, Bermudes reinstated 11 of 28 police officers he had previously placed on administrative duty pending an investigation into alleged unjustified overtime hours incurred.

Unfortunately, three of the 28 who were on administrative duty had resigned before the investigation had concluded.

He said this investigation is part of his overall goal to rebuild trust within the community and department through transparency and equality.

Last year, the transition team assigned to DPS determined that the department requested approval for over 11,000 hours of overtime—roughly one year and a half's worth of regular work hours—in just one pay period in December.

More specifically, the transition report noted that a whopping 11,127.25 overtime hours were requested for the pay period from Dec. 4, 2022, to Dec. 17, 2022.

In addition, the transition team also stated that upon review of timesheets and OT requests from January 2022 to January 2023, it found that DPS has been paying out excessive OT accruals for the same group of officers, some higher-ranking officers and certain lower ranking ones as well—specific to certain sections.

The transition team found that, of the over 11,000 hours in overtime, about 4,000 OT hours, roughly about five and a half months of regular hours, were requested for 40 officers who were allegedly part of former DPS commissioner Robert Guerrero's "inner circle."

The transition report said there is reason to believe that possible fraud and theft of government time was committed.

## JUDGE

From Page 1

James Kingman and defense counsel Anthony Aguon regarding the prosecution's recent issuance of a subpoena for a particular bank account at the Bank of Guam held by Torres.

The subpoena sought the production of Torres' financial records in connection with the misconduct in office allegations filed by the Office of the Attorney General against the former governor.

Torres' defense team immediately opposed the subpoena, arguing that it violates Torres' rights as well as the rights of his wife as the account is a joint account.

Following the arguments, Barcinas said he needs to review the arguments presented before he can make a decision. In the meantime, he verbally ordered that no documents be produced until he has issued his rul-



# US Coast Guard continues post-Mawar recovery efforts

By SARA MUIR

U.S. COAST GUARD FORCES MICRONESIA/  
SECTOR GUAM

**SANTA RITA, Guam**—On June 1, U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam crews, in collaboration with local partners, continue the effort to coordinate a swift response to maritime needs in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dedicated law enforcement teams continue extensive patrols in the harbor area, ensuring the safety and security of these areas alongside the Port of Guam Police and local law enforcement.

Pollution responders are conducting regular harbor patrols to monitor existing and identify any new potential hazardous materials or pollution issues. Their commitment is evident in actively monitoring the cleanup operations on 19 commercial or private vessels identified as affected by the storm. These vessels may contain limited quantities of gasoline, diesel fuel, and hydraulic oil; however, they do not pose a hazard to navigation. Many vessels have already been addressed, and many owners contracted services to remove and restore their vessels.

Work is also underway to recapitalize the commercial dry dock, and tug affected in Guam. A U.S. Coast Guard member assessed the port and fuel facility on Rota. While there is no significant pollution, the fuel facility in Rota requires repairs before being able to transfer fuel, and that work is in progress.

During the underwater survey, crews located the 68-foot sailing vessel Pros near the F1 commercial pier in Apra Har-



CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SARA MUIR

Crews from the U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam and other District 14 units are joined by U.S. Coast Guard Incident Management Team members from Virginia on June 1, 2023, as the recovery operations continue in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas on May 28, 2023.

bor. The vessel does not threaten navigation or pose a significant pollution risk, and responders informed the owner of its status.

Assessment teams aboard Station Apra Harbor response boats conducted comprehensive shoreline assessments on both the western and eastern shores of the island, covering an extensive area to ensure a thorough evaluation.

The USCGC Sequoia (WLB 215) crew has been actively restoring the Aids to Navigation constellation throughout Guam and the CNMI. They have completed repair work on most of the aids in Guam, including recent efforts to restore day boards and ranges at Ritidian and Agaña Boat Basin.

A combined team, comprising members from Station Apra Harbor, Maritime Safety and Security Team Honolulu, and the Regional Dive Locker Pacific, used a remotely operated vehicle to locate Apra Harbor Buoy 3, which is sunk near its previous location. Its absence does not prevent commercial traffic from moving; a temporary buoy is on the station.

In addition, a team from Guam traveled to Rota on May 30 aboard an HC-130 Hercules airplane, forward deployed from Air Station Barbers Point, carrying out repairs on the Rota rear range light. The Hercules crews also provided essential supplies such as water and

equipment to Rota and Guam.

Dedicated local crews and surge personnel who have arrived from off-island are working tirelessly to restore the facilities at U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam and its sub-units. Teams completed a comprehensive damage assessment, and repair efforts are underway to restore utilities and services fully.

"Our team, alongside our partners, has demonstrated exceptional professionalism and resilience in the face of adversity. I commend their unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of our region. We are grateful for the support we have received from off-island, and

we thank everyone for their patience as we work diligently to restore normalcy," Capt. Nick Simmons, commander, U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam.

As part of the U.S. Coast Guard's commitment to public safety, all three 154-foot Sentinel-class Fast Response Cutters remain in Guam. Two are on standby for search and rescue operations and immediate response tasks as required.

"We remain fully committed to ensuring the well-being and safety of our members and their families," said Simmons. "We are pleased to report that all members and families were accounted for within 24 hours of the storm passing. The needs

of members and families affected by water and power shortages are being addressed, with many of our folks relocated to hotels. We're hearing positive news each day about progress in restoring utilities. We are also working to address the challenge of our regular transfer season."

U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia Sector Guam is responsible for the safety, security, and protection of maritime interests within the Micronesia sub-region of Oceania. Committed to preserving life, property, and the environment, the team works closely with local partners to ensure the region's residents' well-being and the integrity of waterways. **(USCG)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Local dignitaries, advocates, and members of the community join Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang during a proclamation signing last Thursday, June 1, that designated the entire month of June as CNMI Pride Month.

## June is CNMI Pride Month

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang have designated the entire month of June as CNMI Pride Month in a proclamation signing last Thursday, June 1.

They were joined by local dignitaries, advocates, and members of the community, with several moving inspirational words shared by advocates for the LGBTQIA+ community.

Concurrently, Pride Month was also proclaimed on Tin-

ian, by the Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan.

In a news release from the office of Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, he "called upon the Commonwealth to show support to our LGBTQIA+ community by celebrating their many contributions to society, recognizing the significant roles they've played in local, national, and worldwide history, uplifting their voices, and promoting equality and liberty for all."

As part of the celebration, the CNMI Public School System's Mental Health Project Haligi Aware, the Marianas High School Dolphin Pride Club, Pride Marianas Youth, community partners, and its volunteers took part in a Walk, Wave, and Roll for Pride at the Minachom Atdao Pavilion yesterday.

The registration was immediately followed by waving at 4:30pm, and proceeded to a fun walk, roll, and stroll

to the Atkins Kroll intersection in San Jose, ending with a final waving.

The MHS Dolphin Club will also be fundraising as they sell pride pins, stickers, and hand flags to support their ongoing efforts in providing youth activities during the month of June.

More events are being hosted across the Marianas, including a Color Run on Rota on June 10; Puppy Pride Parade at the American Memo-

rial Park; Community Project on Tinian; Social Media Challenges; Lunch and Paint celebrating Ocean Month; and the CNMI's first Rainbow Prom.

The theme of the Prom is "A Midsummer Night's Bloom" and is open to all students in the CNMI from ages 14 to 18. Tickets are free, inclusive of a dinner buffet. The event is set to be held at the Saipan World Resort Royal Taga Hall on June 30, 2023, from 5pm to 9pm. RSVP for the Rainbow

Prom is needed via the link: [bit.ly/3BvhM6z](https://bit.ly/3BvhM6z) or email: [dolphinprideclub@gmail.com](mailto:dolphinprideclub@gmail.com) @dolphinprideclub

"They are excited to see many of the LGBTQIA+ youth and allies of the community at this event. Details on other events will be forthcoming as the month of June progresses," said Dr. Jennifer F. Maratita, Clinical Services Supervisor, Office of Student and Support Services; CNMI Public School System. **(Leigh Gases)**



## NAVIGATING THE WAY FOR GROWTH AND COLLABORATION

## IGFOA summer 2023 meeting concludes in Portland, Oregon

The Island Government Finance Officers Association recently concluded its summer meeting from May 20 to May 25, 2023, in Portland, Oregon, bringing together government finance leaders and staff from the U.S.-affiliated island jurisdictions.

The event, which brought together representatives from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia—including the FSM national government, Chuuk, Pohnpei and Yap—Guam, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, served as a productive platform for fostering growth and collaboration.

The pre-meeting commenced with a warm welcome from Finance Secretary Tracy Norita from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and discussion of challenges and delays issuing single audits.

IGFOA participants then joined over 6,000 attendees at the GFOA Conference, which was held at the Portland Convention Center from May 21 to May 24, 2023.

The GFOA Conference featured an extensive program comprising more than 83 sessions covering various topics, including Finance Office Management and Process Improvement, Leadership, ERP Systems and Technology, Accounting and Financial Reporting, and Fiscal Management. Attendees actively participated in interactive sessions, presentations, and networking opportunities to promote collaboration and to exchange ideas.

The IGFOA summer meeting continued on May 25, 2023, with insular government representatives sharing key takeaways from GFOA session, and updating participants on the current status of their finance office performance measures. Each insular government developed an action plan



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Island Government Finance Officers Association pose for a souvenir picture at the end of its summer meeting from May 20 to May 25, 2023, in Portland, Oregon

to address financial challenges unique to island jurisdictions.

Three subject matter experts in the field of government accounting and finance served as valued contributors to the IGFOA meeting. Debbie Milks, CPA, facilitated discussions on insular governments' single audit status, IGFOA finance office performance measures, and debriefed GFOA sessions during the IGFOA meeting.

Frank Crawford, CPA, provided an update on emerging GASB standards, including leases and subscription-based information technology arrangements.

Emily Brock, director of the GFOA Liaison Center, updated attendees on the status of U.S. federal programs as a Washington, D.C.-based advocate.

The IGFOA summer meeting concluded with closing remarks by Edward Birn, director of the Department of Administration of the Guam government. Birn encouraged the association to remain steadfast in its commitment to facilitating knowledge sharing and promoting excellence in financial practices as island governments.

"Our dedication to serving the public drives us to overcome every obstacle, no matter how daunting. The lack of resources may pose challenges, but our determination will lead us to find creative solutions to create a brighter future for our community. By the time we meet again, let us strive to find an island solution to the worldwide problem of attracting and retaining the best talent in government. Together, we can shape a brighter future through our determination and collaborative efforts," he stated.

The 2024 IGFOA Winter Meeting will be held in Hawaii and will provide a platform for governments to present their progress implementing action plans and to share updates on performance measures.

For additional information about IGFOA and upcoming events, visit the PITI-VITI website at <https://piti-viti.org/igfoa>.

The IGFOA is supported by the Graduate School USA's Pacific and Virgin Islands Training Initiatives, with funding assistance from the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Finance Secretary Tracy Norita from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands welcomes delegates to the Island Government Finance Officers Association summer meeting.

## SCC sets Q2 Professional Development training

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be holding its 2nd Quarter Professional Development Training on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, offering two sessions on customer service to accommodate participants' availability.

The training, led by Jim Arenovski of Island Training Solutions, will be held at the ITS training room, located on the sixth floor, Suite 604 of the Marianas Business Plaza.

The two training sessions are as follows:

1. Morning session: 9am – 12pm
2. Afternoon session: 1:30pm – 4:30pm

Customer service is a critical aspect of any successful

business, and this training aims to equip attendees with the essential skills and knowledge required to deliver exceptional customer experiences.

Registration fees for the training are set at \$50 for SCC members and \$60 for future SCC members. The SCC is offering a special discount of \$5 per individual when enrolling three or more participants. The group accepts cash, check, and major debit/credit cards. "We accept payments in person or over the phone. In-person payments may be made at our office located at the Marianas Business Plaza, Suite 201-A, second floor. Our hours are Monday-Friday (8am - 12pm, 1pm-5pm).

Closed on weekends.

Registration for this training is now open. Interested individuals can sign up today by visiting the SCC website at [www.saipanchamber.com](http://www.saipanchamber.com). Interested participants can also contact the SCC at (670) 234-7150 or email [contactus@saipanchamber.org](mailto:contactus@saipanchamber.org) for further assistance.

The SCC encourages businesses across all sectors to take advantage of this valuable training opportunity. Investing in staff development will undoubtedly contribute to the retention of existing customers and attract new ones, ultimately driving business growth and success. (PR)

## Jehovah's Witnesses convention returning to Saipan

## » Saipan to host the first large convention of Jehovah's Witnesses since 2019

After a three-year pandemic pause, one of the largest convention organizations in the world has once again chosen Saipan to host its global three-day event—the 2023 "Exercise Patience"! Convention.

Prior to 2019, summers on Saipan were marked by Jehovah's Witnesses attending their annual conventions at the Marianas High School gymnasium. In 2020, the pandemic interrupted that tradition when the Witnesses canceled their in-person events throughout the world and held their convention programs as virtual events in more than 500 languages. From June 16 to 18, 2023, the Witnesses will bring that tradition back to Saipan.

"As much as we loved the convenience and quality of our virtual conventions, nothing

can replace being together in a large group setting," said Bart Waller, spokesman for Jehovah's Witnesses. "While our online conventions reached millions around the world and kept our communities safe, we long to get back to our joyful fellowship at these large gatherings."

Some 6,000 conventions will be held worldwide as part of the 2023 "Exercise Patience"! Convention series. From Friday through Sunday, six convention sessions will explore the quality of patience, highlighting its modern-day relevance through Scriptural examples. A live baptism will be performed following the Saturday morning session and a prerecorded drama will be featured in two parts during the Saturday and Sunday afternoon sessions.

"Patience is a beautiful qual-

ity that all Christians desire to display in their daily lives," said Waller. "Despite our good intentions, however, maintaining patience in the face of life's many challenges can be a daily struggle. Spending three days exploring aspects of this quality will be very timely for all of us."

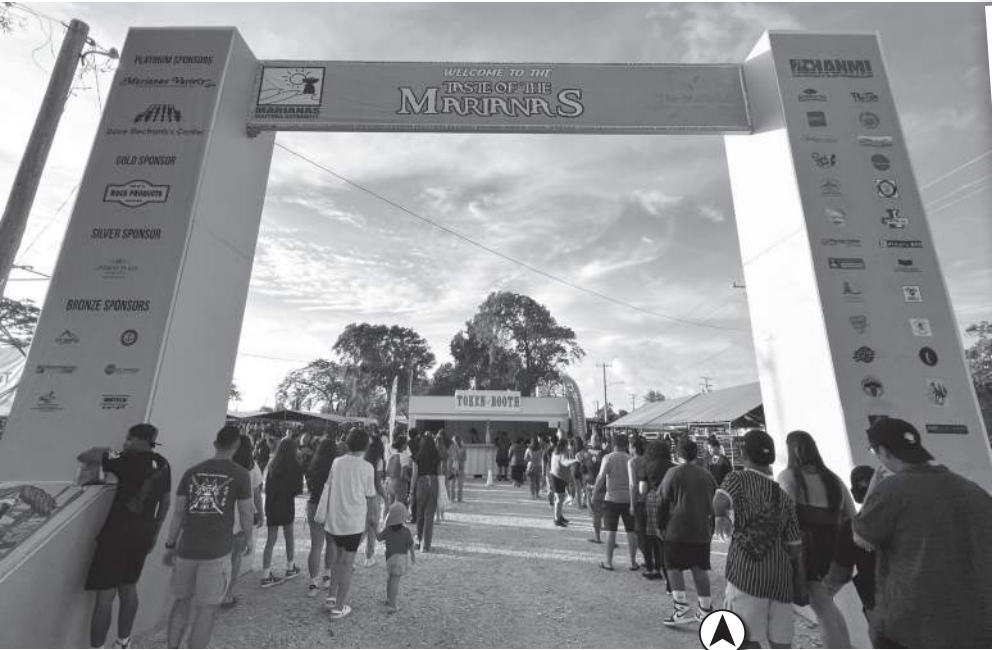
Jehovah's Witnesses have been holding public conventions in stadiums, arenas, convention centers, and theaters around the world for more than 100 years. After resuming smaller in-person meetings and their public ministry during 2022, the summer of 2023 marks the first time they will gather at much larger regional events around the world since the lifting of pandemic restrictions.

The convention is open to the public and no collection is taken. For more information on the program or to find other convention locations and dates, go to [jw.org](http://jw.org) and navigate to the "About Us" tab. (PR)

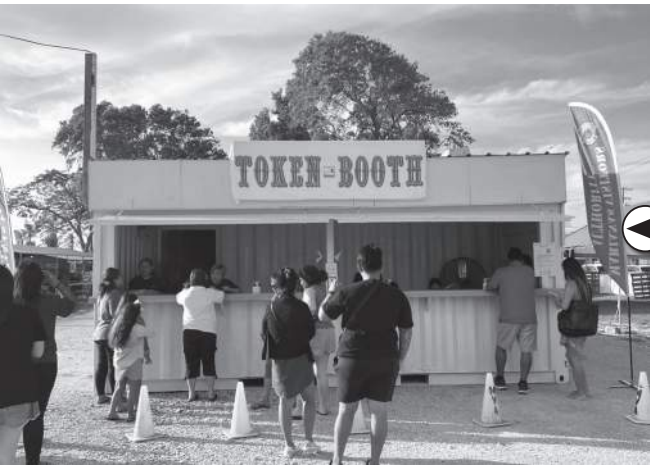




Local dignitaries and their families join Marianas Visitors Authority officials in a ribbon-cutting ceremony to signify the start of the 24th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden that will be held every Saturday in June at the Garapan Fishing Base. **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**



Hundreds line up at the entrance of the 24th annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden to get their tokens. **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**



The Marianas Visitors Authority brings back the use of tokens during the 24th annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at the Garapan Fishing Base. **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**



Local artists showcase their masterpieces during the 24th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden at the Garapan Fishing Base. **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**



Hundreds of CNMI locals as well as tourists visit the Garapan Fishing base to take part in the 24th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden. **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**



The 24th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival and Beer Garden was a resounding success, with hundreds of CNMI locals as well as tourists coming out to Garapan Fishing base to partake in the festivities. **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**



Members of the Tinian municipality participate in the opening night of the 24th Annual Taste of the Marianas last Saturday by showcasing some of their delicacies like their grass-fed beef and their famous Tinian Hot peppers. While they sold jars of their Tinian Hot peppers, the Tinian community members gave free samples of their slow roasted, fresh Tinian beef. **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**



Team Oh My Grill, the winners of the 24th Annual Taste of the Marianas cooking competition, put their own spin on the classic Chamorro dish Kadun Pika last Saturday at the Garapan Fishing Base. **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**



# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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### EDITORIAL

## In Trump vs. DeSantis in Iowa, Disney is the punching bag. So much for serious debate

**F**lorida Gov. Ron DeSantis packed up his petty fight with Disney and took it on the road this week, heading to Iowa as he launched his campaign for the GOP nomination for president.

At Eternity Church in Clive, Iowa, on Tuesday, he trotted out the anti-woke rhetoric so familiar to all of us in Florida, calling Disney an “800-pound gorilla” that he was warned would steamroll him if he dared to take it on.

“Well, here I stand,” he told the crowd, which reportedly gave him a standing ovation for talking about trying to “protect children’s innocence.”

But former President Donald Trump, DeSantis’ old mentor, wasn’t about to cede the low ground of anti-Disney sentiment to the Florida governor. On social media, Trump called Disney a “Woke and Disgusting shadow of its former self, with people actually hating it,” adding that the governorship of “Rob DeSanctimonious” was to blame.

Here we go again.

In the irrelevant and time-wasting race to out-hate Disney in the Republican primary, DeSantis and Trump are neck and neck. And the rest of us mere voters are losers.

This is well-worn culture-war stuff for Floridians, of course. Perhaps it’s new and interesting to Iowans. Or perhaps they don’t care about something that is silly, personal, performative and has no bearing on serious issues. Things that desperately need addressing, like flooding. Or the cost of living. Or roads and bridges. Or the cost of healthcare.

A lot less exciting than declaring war on the Magic Kingdom, sure, but kitchen-table issues that need addressing nonetheless.

As Dave Peterson, a political scientist at Iowa State University, told the Orlando Sentinel, culture wars are one thing but broadside attacks on Disney may be too much: “The sort of really-in-the-weeds specifics in picking a fight with Disney, in particular, is a little over the top, even for a lot of Iowa Republicans.”

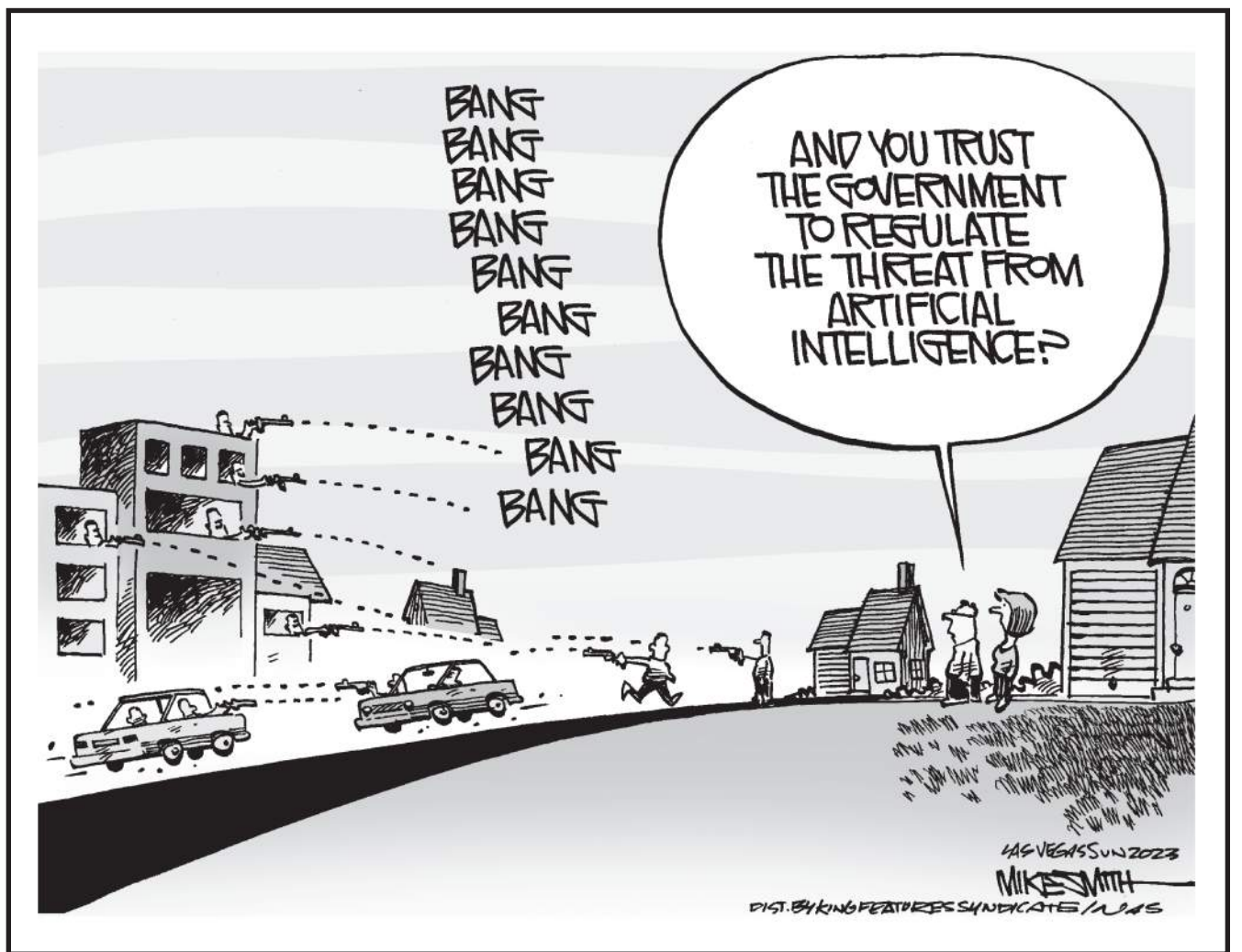
The DeSantis-Disney spat started when the entertainment company fought back against DeSantis’ “Don’t say gay” law—the Parental Rights in Education Act—that bans instruction about sexual orientation and gender identity in public schools. The fight escalated with the state’s takeover of Disney’s governing body, followed by a court fight that continues today. And things got worse: Disney announced it was canceling plans for a \$1 billion project in Lake Nona, Florida, where it would have employed roughly 2,000 people.

It’s all part of DeSantis’ favorite theme, the war on woke, which he has flogged endlessly in Florida, all the way to what was supposed to be a triumphant unveiling of his presidential candidacy on Twitter last week.

That didn’t go so well, of course. Now he still seems to be betting on the Disney fight to shore up his popularity. Polls have generally showed Trump far ahead of DeSantis on that score, though it is very early in the 2024 campaign.

But the horse race aspect of politics shouldn’t be the focus. Voters need candidates who address real issues, not concocted ones. By making Disney the punching bag, the GOP primary is off to a bad start.

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## Ukraine war may become a proving ground for AI

**A**rtificial intelligence is, suddenly, everywhere. We are awash in ideas about how we can use AI productively—from agriculture to climate change to engineering to software construction. And, equally, there are plenty of cautionary notes being struck about using AI to control societies, manipulate economies, defeat commercial opponents, and generally fulfill Arthur C. Clarke’s visions of machines dominating man in 2001: *A Space Odyssey*.

Thus far, however, relatively little has been written about the implications of AI on warfare and geopolitics. For better and worse, those arenas also lend themselves to a variety of ways in which new technologies can suddenly break apart paradigms. Think of Agincourt in 1415, a medieval battle in which the flower of the French nobility—sporting the key technology of that age, plate armor—were slaughtered at long range through an emerging technology, English longbowmen led by King Henry V. Military technology—submarines, radar, sonar, nuclear weapons—can change the global balance in an instant.

Are we at such a moment with AI? Perhaps. A good point of comparison might be the advent of nuclear weapons, when the most experienced warrior of his age, General Douglas MacArthur, saw the atomic bombs used on Japan and said simply that “warfare is changed forever.” Yet the hand-to-hand combat in Ukraine, the dug-in Russian forces in their extensive trenches awaiting the promised Ukrainian summer offensive, and the endless artillery duels between the two sides all seem oh-so-19th century, frankly.

How will artificial intelligence completely change warfare?

First and foremost, AI will be a powerful tool for decision makers on the battlefield at every level. I vividly remember when the Vincennes, a U.S. Navy Aegis cruiser, mistakenly shot down an Iranian commercial airliner in 1988. The tactical action officer in the combat information center incorrectly assessed a hostile Iranian military jet. Nearly 300 civilians paid with their lives.

Had an artificial intelligence advisor been available, capable of synthesizing millions of data points and comparing the radar picture to an infinite number of similar scenarios, it almost certainly would have identified a civilian aircraft. AI could dramatically reduce “collateral damage” killings.

AI could also instantly provide highly detailed strategic targeting information, giving a decision maker a road map to use precision weapons at the most vulnerable points of an enemy’s logistics chain. In the Libyan campaign of 2011, which I commanded, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization struggled with both avoiding collateral damage and less-than-optimal target selection—capabilities AI could easily have provided.

Another crucial capability of AI is the ability to control mas-

By **JAMES STAVRIDIS**  
*Bloomberg Opinion*

*James Stavridis is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. A retired U.S. Navy admiral, former supreme allied commander of NATO, and dean emeritus of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, he is vice chairman of global affairs at the Carlyle Group.*



sive swarms of drones in synchronized attack formations, much as birds flock together to scare away predators. This kind of mechanical murmuration can be directed with deadly results by low-cost, disposable drones that swamp air defenses. Using AI to direct drones in Ukraine, for example, could allow the Kyiv government to further deplete Russia’s dwindling supply of armor, and also cause its forces to waste critical air-defense missiles.

AI could also be a powerful tool in psychological and information warfare. Creating deepfakes—for example, videos purporting to show certain combat effects—could cause mistaken reactions by enemy forces. Consider the image of the Pentagon in flames that spooked markets last week as it went viral around the globe. Ukraine could further the Russians’ sense of a failing war through a flood of AI-generated fake images, false stories and shadow operations.

AI will be very helpful in defensive and back office activities in war. Logistics, as we have seen in the Russian invasion of Ukraine, can be an Achilles heel of militaries. With AI analyzing maintenance patterns, suggesting preventative maintenance, detangling combat supply chains, and providing minute-to-minute logistical advice, commanders will have a deep advantage over opponents who have fallen behind in the race to develop and deploy these tools.

Finally, the ability to use AI to conduct cyberattacks may be its most dangerous attribute. As militaries continue to run combat operations, logistics, targeting, intelligence and all other aspects of modern warfare with the internet as the backbone, the ability to crack into an opponent’s cyber networks will be crucial. Particularly with advances in quantum computing, superior AI systems will allow overall mastery of the cyber battlefield.

Even as we consider the immense benefits of AI to our societies, we need to have a clear-eyed understanding of just how deep the impact will be on the conduct of war. All the more reason for the Pentagon to continue to refine its understanding and implementation of AI in the Ukrainian campaign, which will have benefits for decades to come.



## EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## Rolling back child-labor laws? Has the GOP never read Dickens?

High school freshman girls should not double as cocktail waitresses at night.

That's not a sentence I thought needed to be said, but here we are in 2023, and there are conservative lawmakers in Wisconsin and elsewhere who believe it's a good idea for 14-year-olds to serve alcohol. As more than 10 states have made efforts to roll back child labor laws, that's just one of the disturbing occupations floated as appropriate work for children.

Iowa enacted a law last week allowing more kids to work more dangerous jobs. In Arkansas, a 14-year-old would no longer need to show an employer proof of parental approval. In Ohio, a 14-year-old can work until 9 p.m. during the school year.

Now the arguments against this movement are painfully obvious, but the so-called case for child labor requires unpacking.

Part of the rationale for relaxing the laws grows out of the worker shortage that employers have been experiencing for a few years now. But conservatives have been targeting child labor laws for decades. In fact, President Reagan not only pushed to expand the hours and types of work for children as young as 14, but also wanted to let employers pay teens less than minimum wage as a way to address teen joblessness in the "inner city."

In hindsight that sounds pretty racist. I'm sure it sounded racist then too.

Which brings me to the other aspect of this child labor conversation: the assumption that poverty is more about work ethic than it is about the economic policies that have led to a shrinking middle class.

That same assumption made an appearance over the weekend in the debt-ceiling deal, in which Republicans insisted on expanding "work requirements" to deny food assistance to certain people.

Are there lazy poor people? Of course there are. But when the policy's nickname is "welfare to work," it is clear lawmakers saw "the poor" and "the lazy" as synonymous. It was a popular trope when President Clinton used the phrase in the 1990s, and it's popular again today.

I can't tell if the rolling back of child labor laws—with disingenuous talk of a "worker shortage" or "providing teens more opportunity"—is an avoidable disaster or an intended one.

Is the worker shortage real? Yes. But so is the party's disdain toward poor families—the kind of families that will feel pressure to send kids out into the highest-paying jobs they can find. According to a Pew poll, more than half of Republicans say people who are rich got that way because they "worked harder." More than 40% say the poor "have not worked as hard as most other people."

That last point irks the hell out of me. That idea has been measurably disproven in urban and rural America for decades. But blaming poor people for being poor works well on the campaign trail.

I remember growing up in Detroit, when my family would drive by this one McDonald's on Gratiot Avenue each time we visited relatives on the west side. At the time we lived on the city's east side, the "wrong side of the tracks," so to speak. There was crime and violence, yes, but more importantly my neighborhood was filled with hard-working families who just struggled to get ahead. My stepfather would work double shifts, but shutoff notices would still occasionally be found taped to the front door.

Still, nothing taught me about poverty like that drive down Gratiot Avenue, where I always wanted to stop and where my mom would always say: "Do you have McDonald's money?"

If I had a penny for each time I heard that rhetorical question ... I would have McDonald's money.

Early on, I thought my parents were just being mean.

Then one day you piece together that the shutoff notices, the blocks of government cheese in the fridge ... late-night fights ... they all meant no one in my family had McDonald's money. As you grow older it's only natural to want to help. I know I did.

That's why we have child labor laws. Think I'm being overly dramatic? The Department of Labor reported recently that two 10-year-olds in Kentucky had been found working in a McDonald's kitchen as late as 2 a.m. Kentucky is our fifth-poorest state. That's the kind of exploitation that we tried to put behind us.

A century ago, desperate Americans were forced to send children into dangerous situations like coal mines and slaughterhouses to help put food on the table. We put a stop to that. And you know what else came with that wave of labor laws? Minimum wage and paid overtime.

When hard-working Americans were struggling, the govern-

By LZ GRANDERSON

Los Angeles Times

LZ Granderson is an Op-Ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.



ment acted in their interest, to make sure work paid off. Instead of vilifying people for the economic conditions that made getting ahead nearly impossible, elected officials tried to change the economics. And they set up safety nets for families that hit hard luck.

Is there fraud?

Absolutely.

Everywhere—not just with welfare.

Welfare fraud has become a fixation for the right not because it is rampant but because it is an easy target.

Sen. Ted Cruz imagined the "slacker barista" to critique President Biden's college-debt-relief plan for the same reason Reagan conjured up the "welfare queen." The effect: Voters hate the thought of being ripped off by the undeserving poor, even as the ultra-rich fleece so much more through tax breaks and other distorted policies.

Clinton even made work requirements sound heroic, suggesting the bipartisan reforms would end poverty by inspiring people to join the workforce. In fact the cuts to welfare made life so much worse for hard-working poor people.

In the 2015 book "\$2 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America," there's a passage about a mother who sold plasma twice a week to help feed her family of four. That's what it looks like to get by in the "welfare to work" era.

So forgive me if I don't have a lot of confidence about the effects of these policy trends that have continued in the past week: the erosion of child-labor protections and the expansion of "work requirements" for welfare. How long until children are forced to choose between working long hours on a school night or losing their food stamps?

## How to dig your way out of climate grief

This winter there were moments when I wasn't sure I was going to make it back into my garden. I wasn't sure I wanted to, would have time, would care. I wasn't sure it would ever stop raining.

After six of the warmest years ever recorded in California, after five years of record wildfires, amid the driest period in 1,200 years, this year's record snowfall, its deluge after deluge of violent rain seemed more than the earth could take.

More water is a net good after long drought, but it's also an uneasy bounty. During the storms, our roads washed out, our fields reverted to ancient lakes. Now, more infrastructure will be challenged by the enormous snowmelt that is coming. Hillsides blooming from heavy rains will produce more tinder for the next wildfire. The past winter's storms felt ominous. Now El Niño could bring another catastrophically wet winter, and climate change could spark a cycle of superstorms.

The sun is out now and the weather is mild. It may seem that the hard winter should have nothing to do with the work I do in my yard and a nearby community garden. Yet I still hold the downed trees, the homes swept away, the overtopped rivers in my head and in my body.

There's a phrase friends of mine have started tossing around: "climate grief," our sharp sadness that the planet we knew is in terrible flux, that we're losing pieces of it, in real time, in front of our eyes. Climbing over fallen redwoods strewn the road after one of the toughest storms in March, I realized that my climate grief presents as numbness, disgust, fury and despair. It makes me feel as if whatever we do now—whether cleaning our yards, building more resilient wetlands, voting in decent climate policies—will be too little, too late. I'm sure I'm not alone in this.

And yet, sweeping back the layers of wet muck and adding some dry straw to the compost, turning over soil, putting in seedlings, watching for weeds, I've discovered that my anger and my numbness and my grief are actually places I need to get to, to excavate, to dig out, to feel. I need to get into a garden, to work through the grief, to engage it.

When I garden, I lose, for a few hours at least, the sense that only a catastrophe of losses is upon us. I lose for a while the nagging feeling that there's no hope, that we don't care at all, that we're irrevocably broken. Instead, I'm setting intentions for dark, microbe-rich soil. I'm discovering things that can survive—some mint, some carrots, a bumper crop of potatoes—and things that volunteer: a cucumber plant, at the edge of the compost.

The garden cures me of my numbness in other ways too. Because our garden is in our front yard, I'm out sharing plants with my neighbors. I don't have enough sun for everything I want to grow, so Ari keeps my potted blueberry bushes in her yard, and we share the fruit. Stephen, who was born outside Kharkiv, has an annual tradition of bringing by special Ukrainian tomato starts, a variety that flourishes here despite the Bay Area's summer fog.

I trade seeds and starts for straw from my chicken coop, which other gardeners like for its nutrients. Dalya, who lives two doors down, wanders by to share insights about cultivating shiitakes on loam in a shady side yard. She expounds on the amazing fact of mycelial networks, the great web they build in the soil.

Above ground, suddenly, I feel less angry or afraid or despairing or alone.

In a record year after record years, I stop and look at a pea blossom, faint green veins weaving its pale green face. I weed

By TESS TAYLOR

Los Angeles Times

Tess Taylor is an award-winning poet. A new anthology she edited, *Leaning Toward Light: Poems for Gardens & the Hands That Tend Them*, will be published in August. She lives and gardens in El Cerrito.



daikon with my daughter and cut fava leaves to make into a pesto with my son. We make a salad out of turnip sprouts. We water our plants with a bucket that captures the now-guiltless flow from our backyard sink.






We can't save what we don't love. When I'm in the garden, I realize that my grief is actually another name for this love, is a call to get out and tend this planet we often feel like we're losing before our very eyes. When I do, I remember that my actions matter and that life is stronger and more surprising than I knew, and both of these things help ground me for the road ahead.

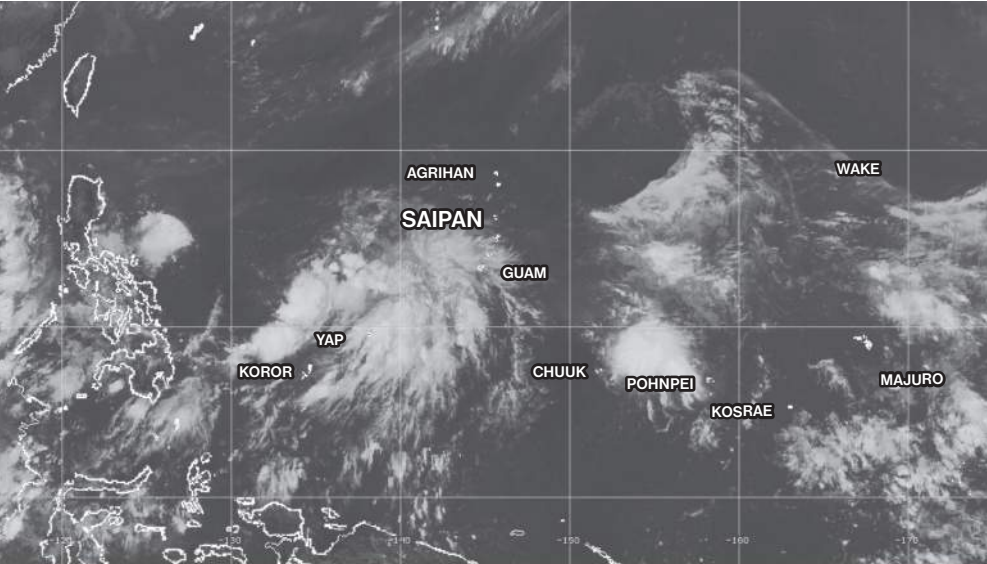
"Whether in a plot in a yard or pots in a window, every politically engaged person should have a garden," says my friend Camille Dungy, who just published a book of essays called "Soil: The Story of a Black Mother's Garden." She says the act of tending plants might help us find some of the grace we need to care for one another and the planet writ large. "It's part of our job not to miss the enormous beauty that's still left," says my friend, the poet Jane Hirshfield. We still have to celebrate "all that's left to save," as marine biologist Ayana Elizabeth Johnson puts it.

The garden reminds us that despite what has been destroyed, what is at risk, we can build, amend, repair. In doing so, we find delight in what's still here, in what we can still share, together, now.



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy		Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy		A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny		A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy		A chance of showers. Partly sunny	
85°	77°	84°	76°	84°	75°	84°	76°	84°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



**PICTURE TIME: 8:14 AM, MONDAY, JUNE 5, 2023**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The latest satellite imagery shows abundant high cloud cover streaming northeast as a developing tropical circulation north of Yap continues to organize. Underneath the mid to upper-level cloud cover, a few trade wind showers are seen approaching the Marianas from the east-northeast. The latest altimetry data shows seas are near 5 feet, with a water temperature of 83 degrees at the Ipan Buoy.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°	
Chuuk	Isolated Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Wednesday	5:45 AM	6:45 PM
Thursday	5:45 AM	6:46 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:46 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	7:25 AM	9:07 PM
Wednesday	-	8:31 AM	10:06 PM
Thursday	-	9:37 AM	10:59 PM
Friday	-	10:40 AM	11:46 PM
Saturday	-	11:39 AM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	60° / 50°	
Beijing	Sunny	97° / 68°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	86° / 81°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	84° / 72°	
London	Partly Cloudy	68° / 48°	
Los Angeles	Cloudy	65° / 59°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 80°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	64° / 59°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	85° / 76°	
New York	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 63°	
Osaka	Light Rain	73° / 65°	
Paris	Mostly Sunny	82° / 58°	
Busan	Cloudy	71° / 62°	
Rome	Showers	77° / 60°	
Salem	Mostly Sunny	86° / 63°	
San Francisco	Cloudy	63° / 57°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	76° / 61°	
Tokyo	Cloudy	79° / 66°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	80° / 61°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:18 AM	Low Tide	1.56	
7:47 AM	High Tide	2.10	
3:27 PM	Low Tide	-0.45	
10:57 PM	High Tide	2.14	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2023							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA156	6:55PM	7:40PM	1, 4 effective June 5	UA112	5:00PM	5:50PM	1, 4 effective June 5
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily	3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/ Sat/Sun	3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily	3103	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri	4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

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# Business

## Saudi Arabia is slashing oil supply

» It could mean higher gas prices for US drivers

**FRANKFURT, Germany** (AP)—Saudi Arabia will reduce how much oil it sends to the global economy, taking a unilateral step to prop up the sagging price of crude after two previous cuts to supply by major producing countries in the OPEC+ alliance failed to push oil higher.

The Saudi cut of 1 million barrels per day, to start in July, comes as the other OPEC+ producers agreed in a meeting in Vienna to extend earlier production cuts through next year.

Calling the reduction a “lollipop,” Saudi Energy Minister Abdulaziz bin Salman said at a news conference that “we wanted to ice the cake.” He said the cut could be extended and that the group “will do whatever is necessary to bring stability to this market.”

The new cut would likely push up oil prices in the short term, but the impact after that would depend on whether Saudi Arabia decides to extend it, said Jorge Leon, senior vice president of oil markets research at Rystad Energy.

The move provides “a price floor because the Saudis can play with the voluntary cut as much as they like,” he said.

The slump in oil prices has



The logo of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is seen outside of OPEC's headquarters in Vienna, Austria, on March 3, 2022.

helped U.S. drivers fill their tanks more cheaply and gave consumers worldwide some relief from inflation.

“Gas is not going to become cheaper,” Leon said. “If anything, it will become marginally more expensive.”

That the Saudis felt another cut was necessary underlines the uncertain outlook for de-

mand for fuel in the months ahead. There are concerns about economic weakness in the U.S. and Europe, while China's rebound from COVID-19 restrictions has been less robust than many had hoped.

Saudi Arabia, the dominant producer in the OPEC oil cartel, was one of several members that agreed on a surprise

cut of 1.6 million barrels per day in April. The kingdom's share was 500,000. That followed OPEC+ announcing in October that it would slash 2 million barrels per day, angering U.S. President Joe Biden by threatening higher gasoline prices a month before the midterm elections.

All told, OPEC+ has now dropped production on pa-

per by 4.6 million barrels a day. But some countries can't produce their quotas, so the actual reduction is around 3.5 million barrels per day, or over 3% of global supply.

The previous cuts gave little lasting boost to oil prices. International benchmark Brent crude climbed as high as \$87 per barrel but has given up its post-cut gains and been loiter-

ing below \$75 per barrel in recent days. U.S. crude has recently dipped below \$70.

That has helped U.S. drivers kicking off the summer travel season, with prices at the pump averaging \$3.55, down \$1.02 from a year ago, according to auto club AAA. Falling energy prices also helped inflation in the 20 European countries that use the euro drop to the lowest level since before Russia invaded Ukraine.

The Saudis need sustained high oil revenue to fund ambitious development projects aimed at diversifying the country's economy.

The International Monetary Fund estimates the kingdom needs \$80.90 per barrel to meet its envisioned spending commitments, which include a planned \$500 billion futuristic desert city project called Neom.

The U.S. recently replenished its Strategic Petroleum Reserve—after Biden announced the largest release from the national reserve in American history last year—in an indicator that U.S. officials may be less worried about OPEC cuts than in months past.

While oil producers like Saudi Arabia need revenue to fund their state budgets, they also have to take into account the impact of higher prices on oil-consuming countries.

Oil prices that go too high can fuel inflation, sapping consumer purchasing power and pushing central banks like the U.S. Federal Reserve toward further interest rate hikes that can slow economic growth.

## Apple is expected to unveil a sleek, pricey headset

Apple appears poised to unveil a long-rumored headset that will place its users between the virtual and real world, while also testing the technology trendsetter's ability to popularize new-fangled devices after others failed to capture the public's imagination.

After years of speculation, the stage is set for the widely anticipated announcement to be made Monday at Apple's annual developers conference in a Cupertino, California, theater named after the company's late co-founder Steve Jobs. Apple is also likely to use the event to show off its latest Mac computer, preview the next operating system for the iPhone and discuss its strategy for artificial intelligence.

But the star of the show is expected to be a pair of goggles—perhaps called “Reality Pro,” according to media leaks—that could become another milestone in Apple's lore of releasing game-chang-

ing technology, even though the company hasn't always been the first to try its hand at making a particular device.

Apple's lineage of breakthroughs date back to a bow-tied Jobs peddling the first Mac in 1984—a tradition that continued with the iPod in 2001, the iPhone in 2007, the iPad in 2010, the Apple Watch in 2014 and its AirPods in 2016.

But with a hefty price tag that could be in the \$3,000 range, Apple's new headset may also be greeted with a lukewarm reception from all but affluent technophiles.

If the new device turns out to be a niche product, it would leave Apple in the same bind as other major tech companies and startups that have tried selling headsets or glasses equipped with technology that either thrusts people into artificial worlds or projects digital images with scenery and things that are actually in front of them—a format known as

“augmented reality.”

Apple's goggles are expected to be sleekly designed and capable of toggling between totally virtual or augmented options, a blend sometimes known as “mixed reality.” That flexibility also is sometimes called external reality, or XR for shorthand.

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg has been describing these alternate three-dimensional realities as the “metaverse.” It's a geeky concept that he tried to push into the mainstream by changing the name of his social networking company to Meta Platforms in 2021 and then pouring billions of dollars into improving the virtual technology.

But the metaverse largely remains a digital ghost town, although Meta's virtual reality headset, the Quest, remains the top-selling device in a category that so far has mostly appealed to video game players looking for even more immersive experiences.

## Twitter executive responsible for content safety resigns

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—A top Twitter executive responsible for safety and content moderation has left the company, her departure coming soon after owner Elon Musk publicly complained about the platform's handling of posts about transgender topics.

The departure pointed to a fresh wave of turmoil among key officials at Twitter since Musk took over last year.

Ella Irwin, Twitter's head of trust and safety, confirmed her resignation in a pair of tweets late Friday. She did not say in the message why she was leaving, but her departure came shortly after Musk criticized Twitter's handling of tweets about a conservative media company's documentary that questions transgender medical treatment for children and teens.

Musk was responding to complaints by Jeremy Boreing, co-CEO of the media company, the Daily Wire.

Boreing said in tweets and retweets of conservative commentators Thursday that Twitter was suppressing the movie by flagging posts about it as hate speech and keeping the movie off lists of trending topics.

Boreing tweeted that Twitter canceled a deal to premiere “What is a Woman?” for free on the platform “because of two instances of ‘misgendering.’” Twitter rules prohibit intentionally referring to transgender individuals with the wrong gender or name.

“This was a mistake by many people at Twitter. It is definitely allowed,” Musk tweeted back. “Whether or not you agree with using someone's preferred pronouns, not doing so is at most rude and certainly breaks no laws.”

Irwin tweeted Friday that “one or two people noticed” she left the company the day before, and she noted speculation about whether she was fired or quit. She teased that

she would post 24 tweets to explain her departure.

Then she posted that she was just kidding about the long narrative.

“In all seriousness, I did resign but this has been a once in a lifetime experience and I'm so thankful to have worked with this amazing team of passionate, creative and hardworking people. Will be cheering you all and Twitter as you go!”

Next to Musk, Irwin had been the most prominent voice of the company's ever-changing content policies in recent months.

Twitter has struggled to bring back advertisers turned off by Musk's drastic changes and loosening of rules against hate speech since he bought Twitter for \$44 billion in October. Twitter also has an incoming CEO, Linda Yaccarino, known for decades of media and advertising industry experience, but she hasn't started yet.



# Nation

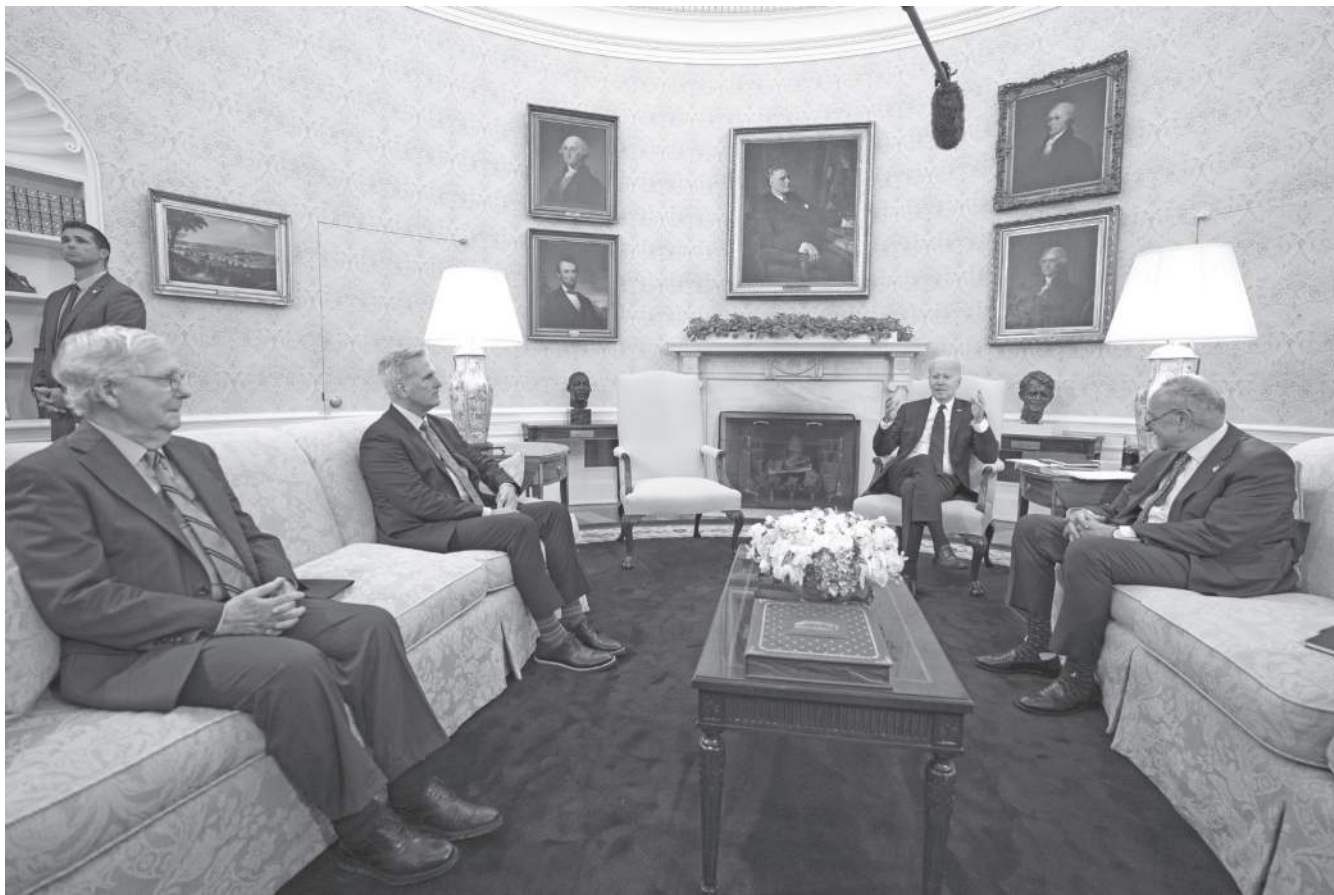
**WASHINGTON (AP)**—President Joe Biden promised voters in 2020 that he knew how to get things done in Washington and could bring stability to the capital. It seemed like a message out of step with the more combative era brought on by Donald Trump.

But Biden prevailed, and as he seeks a second term, he's again trying to frame the race as a referendum on competence and governance, pointing to the bipartisan debt limit and budget legislation he signed on Saturday as another exemplar of the success of his approach.

The agreement the Democratic president negotiated with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and other Republicans averted the catastrophe of a U.S. government default — and forestalled another threat until after the 2024 election — while largely protecting the domestic agenda that formed the backbone of what he hopes will form his legacy.

His approach, favoring pragmatism over Trumpian pugilism, will be tested as never before in the coming campaign, with his approval rating even among Democrats low despite the results he has delivered, in large part because of concerns about his age as the oldest person to ever seek the presidency.

"The results speak for themselves," said Jeff Zients, the 80-year-old Biden's chief of staff. "This level of support shows that we got a bipartisan



Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky., Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy of Calif., and Senate Majority Leader Sen. Chuck Schumer of N.Y., listen as President Joe Biden speaks before a meeting to discuss the debt limit in the Oval Office of the White House, May 9, 2023, in Washington.

were designed to work," said Mike Donilon, a senior adviser to the president.

As the talks progressed, Biden stepped out of the limelight to allow Republican leaders to claim a win—necessary to sell it to their caucus—and quietly reassured Democrats that they would grow to like the deal the more they learned about it.

The result is an agreement that White House aides say exceeded their projections of what a budget agreement would look like with Republicans in charge of the House. It essentially freezes spending for the next year, rather than the steep cuts proposed by the GOP, and protects Biden's infrastructure and climate laws and spending on Social Security and Medicare.

From the view of Biden's team, it's also far better than the result than the debt limit showdown of 2011, when Biden was a negotiator for then-President Barack Obama and House Republicans forced them to accept stiffer budget cuts that they believe hampered the country's recovery from the Great Recession.

## Biden's 2024 pitch highlights pragmatism over TRUMP'S PUGILISM

deal that, most importantly, protects the president's priorities. And now we have a runway to execute on the president's priorities."

Biden's allies say his strategy reflects his broader view of the presidency: tuning out the daily chatter and focusing on making a prolonged impact.

"This was quintessential Joe Biden," said longtime Biden confidant and former Dela-

ware Sen. Ted Kaufman. "He really understands the institutions, how they function, how they interact, and what their limitations are. It's the incredible advantage he has from having 36 years in the Senate and eight years as vice president."

That perceived advantage—longevity—is also perhaps Biden's steepest hill as he seeks four more years.

Biden, aides said, devised a strategy shortly after Republicans took the House in November and stuck by it through the talks, despite second-guessing from members of his own party. He pressed the Republicans to define their budget priorities, then hammered them in public

for unpopular proposed cuts once they did, to enter the negotiations with the strongest hand possible.

"He believes in the institutions of American governance. He's approached this with an eye toward making the presidency and the Congress work and the way they

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### 4 dead in Missouri after car crosses centerline, strikes motorcyclists

**AURORA, Mo. (AP)**—Four people died and seven others were seriously injured when a car crossed the centerline of a Missouri highway and struck five motorcycles. The accident happened Saturday afternoon on Missouri Route 39 near the southwestern Missouri town of Aurora. The Missouri State Highway Patrol said a Toyota Corolla crossed the center line of the two-lane highway and struck the motorcycles, ejecting the drivers and passengers on each motorcycle. One of the motorcycles caught fire. All four people killed were from Aurora. They were James Olmsted, 59; Kameron Hale, 28; Linda Anderson, 61; and a 17-year-old girl whose name was not released. The patrol said Olmsted and Hale were drivers of motorcycles; Anderson and the girl were passengers.

#### 7 shot, 1 fatally, in Chicago when gunfire erupts amid remembrance for man killed in car crash

**CHICAGO (AP)**—A 25-year-old woman was fatally shot and six other people were wounded early Sunday when gunfire erupted in Chicago during a remembrance for a man who died in a car crash, police said. A large group of people had gathered about 1 a.m. to mark four years since a man's fatal crash when there was an altercation and shots rang out, said Deputy Chief Adnardo Gutierrez of the Chicago Police Department, WLS-TV reported. Seven people

were wounded and one of them, a 25-year-old woman, was pronounced dead at a hospital, he said. The six other shooting victims were hospitalized, one in critical condition. "They were out there celebrating and then something happened and a verbal altercation occurred and somebody began shooting, or multiple people began shooting," Gutierrez said at a Sunday briefing. He said it's still under investigation how many people opened fire, but he said the gunshots were fired by a person or persons who were taking part in the remembrance.

#### No survivors found after plane that flew over DC

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—A wayward and unresponsive business plane that flew over the nation's capital Sunday afternoon caused the military to scramble a fighter jet before the plane crashed in Virginia, officials said. The fighter jet caused a loud sonic boom that was heard across the capital region. Hours later, police said rescuers had reached the site of the plane crash in a rural part of the Shenandoah Valley and that no survivors were found. The Federal Aviation Administration says the Cessna Citation took off from Elizabethtown, Tennessee, on Sunday and was headed for Long Island's MacArthur Airport. Inexplicably, the plane turned around over New York's Long Island and flew a straight path down over D.C. before it crashed over mountainous terrain near Montebello, Virginia, around 3:30 p.m.

## DeSantis hits Trump from the right

**NEW YORK (AP)**—In his first week on the campaign trail as a presidential candidate, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis repeatedly hit his chief rival, Donald Trump, from the right.

"This is a different guy than 2015, 2016," DeSantis told a conservative radio host before slamming the bipartisan criminal justice reform legislation Trump championed as "basically a jailbreak bill" that allowed dangerous people out of prison.

He also accused Trump of "turning the reins over" to Dr. Anthony Fauci during the COVID-19 pandemic, said Trump had "endorsed and tried to ram" an "amnesty" bill through Congress and vowed that—unlike the former president—he would finish building the U.S.-Mexico border wall.

In Iowa on Saturday, he hit back at Trump for saying he didn't like the term "woke" be-

### » As ex-president looks ahead to the general election

cause people have a hard time defining it. "Woke is an existential threat to our society," DeSantis said. "To say it's not a big deal, that just shows you don't understand what a lot of these issues are right now."

Trump, meanwhile, has repeatedly attacked DeSantis from the left. He has suggested that even anti-abortion activists consider Florida's new six-week abortion ban "too harsh" and argued that DeSantis has made himself unelectable on a national level with his votes as a congressman to cut Social Security and Medicare—even though Trump's proposed budgets also repeatedly called for major entitlement cuts.

The attacks underscore the underlying early dynamic of the race: As DeSantis tries to win over GOP primary vot-

ers and chip away at Trump's commanding early lead, Trump is already pivoting to a general election matchup against President Joe Biden. In the meantime, Trump has been pushing back against DeSantis' argument that the Florida governor, not the former president, is the more viable general election candidate.

"Don't forget, we have to win elections," Trump stressed during a Fox News Channel town hall on Thursday as he discussed abortion politics.

To be clear, Trump has also leaned in on other right-wing causes. This week, he revived his pledge to end birthright citizenship, saying he would sign an executive order on the first day of his second term to change the long-settled interpretation of the 14th Amendment. He also renewed his pledge to use the U.S. military to attack foreign drug cartels and has pushed the death penalty for drug dealers.



# Asia

## ASIAN BRIEFS

### Error in signaling system led to Indian train crash

**BALASORE, India (AP)**—The derailment in eastern India that killed 275 people and injured hundreds was caused by an error in the electronic signaling system that led a train to wrongly change tracks and crash into a freight train, officials said Sunday. Authorities worked to clear the mangled wreckage of the two passenger trains that derailed Friday night in Balasore district in Odisha state in one of the country's deadliest rail disasters in decades. An Odisha government statement revised the death toll to 275 after a top state officer put the number at over 300 on Sunday morning. The officer spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to speak to reporters. Jaya Verma Sinha, a senior railway official, said the preliminary investigations revealed that a signal was given to the high-speed Coromandel Express to run on the main track line, but the signal later changed, and the train instead entered an adjacent loop line where it rammed into a freight loaded with iron ore. The collision flipped Coromandel Express's coaches onto another track, causing the incoming Yesvantpur-Howrah Express from the opposite side also to derail, she said.

### US releases video showing close-call in Taiwan Strait with Chinese destroyer

**BANGKOK (AP)**—The United States military released video Monday of what it called an "unsafe" Chinese maneuver in the Taiwan Strait on the weekend, in which a Chinese navy ship cut sharply across the path of an American destroyer, forcing the U.S. ship to slow to avoid a collision. The incident occurred Saturday as the American destroyer USS Chung-Hoon and Canadian frigate HMCS Montreal were conducting a so-called "freedom of navigation" transit of the strait between Taiwan and mainland China. China claims the democratic self-governing island of Taiwan as part of its own territory, and maintains the strait is part of its exclusive economic zone, while the U.S. and its allies regularly sail through and fly over the passage to emphasize their contention that the waters are international. During the Saturday transit, the Chinese guided-missile destroyer overtook the Chung-Hoon on its port side, then veered across its bow at a distance of some 150 yards (137 meters), according

to the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command. The American destroyer held its course, but reduced speed to 10 knots "to avoid a collision," the military said. The video released Monday shows the Chinese ship cutting across the course of the American one, then straightening out to start sailing in a parallel direction. Indo-Pacific Command said the actions violated maritime rules of safe passage in international water. The Chinese ship did not attempt a similar maneuver on the Canadian frigate, which was sailing behind the American destroyer. "Chung-Hoon and Montreal's transit through the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the combined U.S.-Canadian commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific," Indo-Pacific Command said. "The U.S. military flies, sails, and operates safely and responsibly anywhere international law allows." The U.S. recently accused China of also performing an "unnecessarily aggressive maneuver" in the air, saying a Chinese J-16 fighter jet late last month flew directly in front of the nose of a U.S. Air Force reconnaissance aircraft over the South China Sea.

### Pakistani Taliban claim attack in northwest that left 2 soldiers, 2 militants dead

**PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)**—The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for an attack in northwest Pakistan that left two soldiers and two militants dead. The army said in a statement that militants opened fire on a security checkpoint Saturday evening in the Jani Khel area of Bannu district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, leading to a shootout with Pakistani troops. A search operation was underway to track the militants behind the attack. Taliban spokesman Mohammad Khorasani said in a statement on the group's website that the group carried out the "joint attack" in collaboration with another faction of the Pakistani Taliban, the Hafiz Gul Bahadur group. The militant group has been distancing itself from the Taliban, also known as TTP, and carrying out attacks independently. The Pakistani Taliban are a separate group but are allied with the Afghanistan Taliban, who took over Afghanistan in August 2021, following the withdrawal of U.S. and NATO forces from the country. The takeover emboldened the TTP. They unilaterally ended a cease-fire agreement with the Pakistani government in November and have since stepped up their at-

tacks in the country.

### 19 killed in southwest China landslide covering mine worker dormitory

A landslide tore through a mining company's worker dormitory early Sunday morning in southwestern China, killing 19 people, authorities said. The disaster struck in a mountainous rural district of Sichuan province's Leshan county, where rains have been falling constantly for weeks. More than 180 people were mobilized to help find those buried under the debris in an operation that wrapped up on Sunday afternoon. Those killed were all apparently workers with the Jinkaiyuan mining company, according to state broadcaster CCTV. With its humid, rainy climate, southwestern China is prone to landslides, especially in areas where there has been large-scale shifting of land due to farming, deforestation, engineering projects and mining operations. (AP)

### Australian mother imprisoned 20 years pardoned and freed because of doubt she killed her 4 children

**CANBERRA, Australia (AP)**—An Australian woman who spent 20 years in prison was pardoned and released Monday based on new scientific evidence that her four children died by natural causes as she had insisted. The pardon was seen as the quickest way of getting Kathleen Folbigg out of prison, and a final report from the second inquiry into her guilt could recommend the state Court of Appeals quash her convictions. Folbigg, now 55, was released from a prison in Grafton, New South Wales state, following an unconditional pardon by Gov. Margaret Beazley. Australian state governors are figureheads who act on instructions of governments. New South Wales Attorney-General Michael Daley said former justice Tom Bathurst had advised him last week there was reasonable doubt about Folbigg's guilt based on new scientific evidence that the deaths could have been from natural causes. "There is a reasonable doubt as to Ms. Folbigg's guilt of the manslaughter of her child Caleb, the infliction of grievous bodily harm on her child Patrick and the murder of her children Patrick, Sarah and Laura," Daley told reporters. "I have reached a view that there is reasonable doubt as to the guilt of Ms. Folbigg of those offenses," Daley added.

# World

## Russia says it thwarted attack in Donetsk

**KYIV, Ukraine (AP)**—Russia's Defense Ministry announced early Monday its forces had thwarted a large Ukrainian attack in the eastern province of Donetsk, though it's unclear if this was the start of a Ukrainian counteroffensive.

The ministry, in a rare early morning video, said its forces pushed back a "large scale" Ukrainian assault on Sunday at five points in southern Donetsk, one of four Ukrainian regions Russia illegally annexed last fall.

"The enemy's goal was to break through our defenses in the most vulnerable, in its opinion, sector of the front," said the ministry's spokesman, Igor Konashenkov. "The enemy did not achieve its tasks. It had no success."

Konashenkov said 250 Ukrainian personnel were killed, and 16 Ukrainian tanks, three infantry fighting vehicles and 21 armored combat vehicles were destroyed.

Ukraine didn't comment, and often waits until the completion of its military operations to confirm its actions, imposing news blackouts in the interim. It was unclear why the Russian Defense Ministry waited until Monday morning to announce the attack, which it said started Sunday morning.

For months, Ukrainian officials have spoken of plans to launch a spring counteroffensive to reclaim territory



Russian rockets are launched against Ukraine from Russia's Belgorod region, seen from Kharkiv, Ukraine, late Sunday, June 4, 2023.

Russia has occupied since invading Feb. 24, 2022, as well as the Crimean Peninsula it seized in 2014. But they've given confusing signals about what would constitute a counteroffensive—preliminary, limited attacks to weaken Russian forces and military

### » Unclear if this was start of Ukrainian counteroffensive

facilities or a full-fledged simultaneous assault across the entire 1,100-kilometer (684-mile) front line. At least two factors have been at play in timing the counteroffensive: awaiting improvement of ground conditions for troop and equipment movement after the winter, and deployment of more advanced Western weapons and training of Ukrainian troops to use them.

The Russian Defense Ministry spokesman said

Ukraine used six mechanized and two tank battalions in the attack, and it released a video claiming to show destruction of some of the equipment in a field.

In a rare specific mention of the presence of Russia's top military leaders in battlefield operations, the spokesman said the chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, Gen. Valery Gerasimov, "was at one of the forward command posts."

Announcing Gerasimov's direct involvement could be a response to criticism by some Russian military bloggers and mercenary group head Yevgeny Prigozhin that Russia's military brass hasn't been visible enough at the front or taken sufficient control or responsibility for their country's military operations in Ukraine.

## US, UK navies respond to distress call as Iran 'harassed' ship

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)**—The U.S. Navy said Monday its sailors and the United Kingdom Royal Navy came to the aid of a ship in the crucial Strait of Hormuz after Iran's Revolutionary Guard "harassed" it.

Three fast-attack Guard vessels with armed troops aboard approached the merchant ship at a close distance Sunday afternoon, the U.S. Navy said in a statement. It offered black-and-white images it said came from a U.S. Navy Boeing P-8 Poseidon overhead, which showed three small ships close to the commercial ship.

The U.S. Navy's guided-missile destroyer USS McFaul and the Royal Navy's frigate HMS Lancaster responded to the incident, with the Lancaster launching a helicopter.

"The situation deescalated approximately an hour later when the merchant vessel

confirmed the fast-attack craft departed the scene," the Navy said. "The merchant ship continued transiting the Strait of Hormuz without further incident."

The Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf, sees 20% of the world's oil pass through it.

While the Navy did not identify the vessel involved, ship-tracking data from MarineTraffic.com analyzed by The Associated Press showed the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier Venture erratically changed course as it traveled through the strait at the time of the incident. Its location also matched information about the incident given by the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations, a British military operation overseeing traffic in the region. The vessel also resembled the images released by the Navy.

The ship's registered manager, Trust Bulkers of Ath-

ens, Greece, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Iranian state media and the Revolutionary Guard did not immediately acknowledge the incident. Iran's mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

This latest incident comes after a series of maritime incidents involving Iran following the U.S. unilaterally withdrawing from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers in 2018.

The suspected American seizure of the Suez Rajan, a tanker linked to a U.S. private equity firm believed to have been carrying sanctioned Iranian crude oil off Singapore, likely sparked Tehran to recently take the Marshall Islands-flagged tanker Advantage Sweet. That ship carried Kuwaiti crude oil for energy firm Chevron Corp. of San Ramon, California.



## Overdrive

## Genesis GV60: High-tech gadgets with an extra boost

By BARRY SPYKER  
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Genesis has installed an amazing array of cutting-edge technology into its 2023 GV60 Performance crossover, and it should be at the top of this review. But when a carmaker puts a yellow BOOST button on the steering wheel for an acceleration jolt ... well, that's impossible to resist.

Push the button and prepare for a 10-second throttle thrill as the dual-motor EV kicks out an extra 54 horsepower and 70 pound-feet of torque. As if it were needed in a premium compact that already has a ton of torque, it helps the Gen sprint to 60 mph in just 3.7 seconds. So there's plenty of oomph for highway passing, merging and adrenaline rushes.

The GV60 is the first dedicated battery-electric vehicle for Genesis. Two variants are available, at least in select markets: the base Advanced and more powerful Performance. Both use two electric motors and a 77.4 kWh battery, but the Performance gets more clout with 429 hp and 516 pound-feet of torque. Both come with all-wheel-drive and a single-speed transmission.

Many would say the GV60 has brash looks for a crossover, with split rows of LED lights and a gloss-black crest grille, split rows of lights in the rear, and flashy geometric-design 21-inch wheels. But the vote is not unanimous: One analyst called the GV60 too



The Genesis GV60 is the brand's first dedicated electric vehicle model.  
GENESIS/TNS

funky, another said it looked frumpy from the side, and someone else likened it to a bullfrog. Guess it's an "eye of the beholder" thing.

But there's no disagreement on performance. Powered by a 160 kW electric motor in front and another at the rear axle, it rockets through the quarter-mile post in just over 12 seconds. Acceleration is smooth and quiet all the way.

GV60 has a comfortable and refined behavior, but it quickly gets athletic when pushed. Handling on corners and curves is improved by a rear limited-slip differential and adaptive dampers, but don't push it too hard: At 4,890 pounds, it has some lean on corners. Steering is responsive, however, and accurate.

The EV's regenerative braking is exceptional and versatile. Four levels of regen are available, from lighter feel to one-pedal driving. After selecting the mode on the steering paddle, the GV60 can accelerate, decelerate and come to a full stop with the gas pedal alone. Remember, heavy regen boosts driving range, too.

That is something to consider since its estimated range of 235 miles is barely average for the class. A full charge produced 217 miles on the gauge and some folks in cold climates say 200 is optimistic.

The good news is that it's a quick charger. Genesis says the battery can go from 10 to 80 percent in 18 minutes when hooked up to a DC fast-charger (Level III). Figure on

## NUTS &amp; BOLTS

- **Base Price:** \$68,985 (Includes BOOST mode, adaptive suspension, 21-inch wheels, Nappa leather seats with massage feature, microfiber suede headliner, limited slip differential)
- **What's all the excitement about?** Novel and clever tech features like a crystal-dome shifter, luxe cabin, and a BOOST button for an extra 54 hp of thrills
- **Powertrain:** Dual 160 kW motors in all-wheel-drive setup, energized by 77.4 kWh lithium ion battery; mated to single-speed transmission
- **How's the performance?** Sprints to 60 mph as quickly as 3.7 seconds using the BOOST button; Low center of gravity means good handling for a nearly 5,000-pound vehicle
- **Fuel economy:** EPA-estimated 97 MPGe city, 82 highway

seven hours or so at a 240-volt (Level II) charging station. The GV battery can also be used as a mobile source of power at home in the event of a thunderstorm.

Mileage figures are just

above average for the segment: The EPA projects the GV60 to get 97 MPGe city, 82 highway. The Advanced version does better at 103 MPGe city, 86 highway.

The cabin is fashionable

and loaded with surprising design features. But just getting inside is impressive enough. Unlock the door by looking into a camera inside the B pillar while holding the handle. The GV60's "Face Connect" confirms the ID and takes care of the rest, unlocking doors and automatically adjusting the seats, mirrors, media and head-up display.

Then start the car with a fingerprint check and off you go. It's even possible to "loan" a key to a friend or relative via an iPhone message. Having second thoughts? Revoke the key with a simple click.

The cabin is loaded with clever gadgets, including a novel crystal sphere on the center console that glows when the engine is off. No, the crystal can't tell your fortune, but the sphere (yes, it's gimmicky but still cool) rotates upside down to reveal the gear selector to choose forward, neutral and reverse. Park mode is chosen with a button at the center.

Another oddity—but handy—is the glove box that pulls out like a small drawer.

A standard 12.3-inch touchscreen has sharp graphics and colors, is easy to reach, and quickly responds to inputs. It has navigation, Wi-Fi hotspot, wireless charging device four USB ports, Apple CarPlay and Android Auto. Also standard is a 17-speaker Bang & Olufsen audio system that includes "listening moods" like Relax, Energetic, Bright and Warm.

## How much should this cost?

**Q:** I have a 2009 Hyundai Azera Limited with about 83,000 miles. Last year, the TPMS warning light started flashing intermittently, but would eventually go off. Early this year, the dashboard started showing the "TPMS System Failure" warning at start, and the TPMS warning light glows permanently. I had it diagnosed a couple of months ago. They stated they need to replace all four TPMS sensors and recalibrate the system; their estimate for this was slightly over \$1,400. This seems like a lot of money. Is this a justified cost?

J.F., Eden Prairie, Minnesota

**A:** Chances are the tire pressure monitoring system (TPMS) control module is the culprit. Call around for quotes to replace it and reprogram all four of the speed sensors. Keep in mind that one or more sensors could also be bad. The cost should be well under a grand to replace the module.

■■■

**Q:** I have a 2013 F-150 3.5L EcoBoost engine. After looking into the source of a slight burning odor inside the truck cab, it has been determined the vacuum pump is leaking a small amount of oil and dripping onto the exhaust manifold. I was given a quote of \$650 to replace the vacuum pump. I have not yet had the work done and I'm told the oil leak will not get worse, but I am not convinced. In spite of these issues, I like the truck but am considering cutting my losses and replacing it even though I now have an almost completely rebuilt engine with relatively low mileage.

T.S., Peru, Illinois

**A:** Although minor now, it could get worse. I would replace



DREAMSTIME/TNS

A tire pressure monitoring system control module may need to be replaced.

the pump. Anything flammable, like oil, could catch fire, especially contacting the hot exhaust manifold. Replacing the pump, especially with a rebuilt unit, is a lot cheaper than replacing a truck that has become a cinder.

**Q:** There was a letter in your column recently about a low tire monitor light. I had a low tire light come on in my 2008 Toyota 4Runner. I went to the tire store, and they aired up my tires to recommended pressure, but the light stayed lit. I stopped by the dealer to ask how to determine which unit might be faulty. The service writer asked if the tire shop had checked the spare tire; I said no. He crawled under and put air in the spare and the light went off. I didn't realize the spare had a low tire unit.

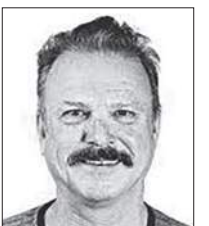
T.K., Colorado Springs, Colorado

## MOTORMOUTH

BY BOB WEBER

Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to [motormouth.tribune@gmail.com](mailto:motormouth.tribune@gmail.com).



**A:** Good point and one that I am happy to pass along. Most vehicles with full-size spare tires have sensors on them. Yeah, they were quite often overlooked as the source of warning lights glowing. Vehicles with mini spares or inflators instead of full-size spare tires don't have this issue.

■■■

**Q:** I own a 2018 RAV4 that has had a rising oil level since 15,000 miles. The dealer refuses to acknowledge there is a warranty problem. I have had it in many times and they tell me I don't have a problem. I have owned cars for more than 50 years and have never had more oil on dipstick over time. How much trouble can this cause?

D.F., Tiffin, Iowa

**A:** Unlike oily plants like palm trees and flax, the oil in your crankcase does not grow. The most likely source to increase the volume in the sump is gasoline. Bad piston rings, for instance, can allow gas to seep past. Check for the odor of gas when you pull out the dipstick next time.



# Life & Style

## Prince Harry’s battle with tabloids heads for showdown

**LONDON** (AP)—Prince Harry’s battle with the British press is headed for a showdown in a London courtroom this week with the publisher of the Daily Mirror.

The Duke of Sussex is scheduled to testify in the High Court after his lawyer presents opening statements Monday in the first of his legal cases to go to trial and one of three alleging tabloids unlawfully snooped on him in their cutthroat competition for scoops on the royal family.

Harry will be the first member of the British royal family in more than a century to testify in court and is expected to describe his anguish and anger over being hounded by the media throughout his life, and its impact on those around him.

Harry, 38, has blamed paparazzi for causing the car crash that killed his mother, the late Princess Diana, and said harassment and intrusion by the U.K. press, including allegedly racist articles, ultimately led him and his wife, Meghan, to flee to the U.S. in 2020 and leave royal life behind.

Articles he has cited date back to this 12th birthday when the Mirror reported he was feeling “badly” about the divorce of his mother and father, now King Charles III.

The reports made Harry wonder who he could trust as he feared friends and associates were betraying him by leaking information to the newspapers, he said in court documents. His circle of friends grew smaller and he suffered “huge bouts of depression and paranoia.” Relationships fell apart as the women in his life—and even their family members—were “dragged into the chaos.”

He says he later discovered that the source wasn’t disloyal friends but aggressive journalists and the private investigators they hired to eavesdrop on voicemails and track his to locations as remote as Argentina and an island off Mozambique.

Mirror Group Newspapers said it didn’t hack Harry’s phone and its articles were based on legitimate reporting techniques. The publisher admitted and apologized for hiring a private eye to dig up dirt on one of Harry’s nights out at bar, but the resulting 2004 article headlined “Sex on the beach with Harry” was not among the 33 in question at trial.

Mirror Group said it has settled more than 600 of some 830 unlawful information-gathering claims and paid out more than 100 million pounds (\$125 million).

The opening statements being presented on Monday mark the second phase of the trial in which Harry and three others have accused the Mirror of phone hacking and unlawful information gathering.

In the first part, attorney David Sherborne, who represents Harry and the others, including two actors from the “Coronation Street” soap opera, said the unlawful acts were “widespread and habitual” at the Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror and Sunday People, and carried out on “an industrial scale.”

The publisher has presented former executives and lawyers who denied knowing about wrongdoing when it was happening or engaging in a cover-up. The first lawsuits against Mirror Group were filed in 2012 and the newspapers printed an apology in 2015 to hacking victims.

Two judges—including Justice Timothy Fancourt, who is overseeing the trial—are in the process of deciding whether Harry’s two other phone hacking cases will proceed to trial.



AP  
Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, Duke and Duchess of Sussex leave after a service of thanksgiving for the reign of Queen Elizabeth II at St Paul's Cathedral in London, Friday, June 3, 2022.

## Doors close for final time on Dutch museum’s Vermeer exhibition

**AMSTERDAM** (AP)—The blockbuster exhibition of paintings by Dutch Master Johannes Vermeer closed its doors for the final time on Sunday, with the art and history national museum of the Netherlands hailing the show as its most successful ever.

The Rijksmuseum said the exhibition that drew on collections around the world to bring together 28 of the 37 paintings generally ascribed to Vermeer attracted 650,000 visitors from 113 countries during its 16-week run that started in early February.

The large number of visitors—including French President Emmanuel Macron, movie director Steven Spielberg and Oscar winner Jamie Lee Curtis—came despite the museum limiting numbers to ensure everybody got a good view of masterpieces such as “Girl with a Pearl Earring” and “The Milkmaid.”

“Vermeer is the artist of peacefulness and intimacy. We wanted the visitors to enjoy it to the fullest,” museum general director Taco Dibbits said. “This was only possible by limiting the number of visitors.”

The exhibition included seven paintings that had never previously been displayed publicly in the Netherlands, among them three from The Frick Collection in New York.

For art lovers who didn’t manage to get their hands on one of the highly-sought-after tickets, six Vermeer paintings will remain on show in the Rijksmuseum’s Gallery of Honor—four from the museum’s own collection along with “The Girl with the Red Hat” from the National Gallery of Art in Washington and “Young Woman Seated at a Virginal” from The Leiden Collection in New York.

Russian Orthodox believers celebrated Trinity Sunday with Russia’s most famous icon transferred from a museum to Moscow’s main cathedral despite the keepers’ vociferous protests.

The Trinity icon by Andrei Rublev, which was kept in Moscow’s Tretyakov Gallery since the 1920s, was moved to Christ the Savior Cathedral before the holiday on President Vladimir Putin’s personal order.

Putin’s abrupt decision to hand over the 15th-century icon to the church came despite a strong opposition from the Tretyakov keepers, who warned that the icon was too fragile to move and requires constant care to avoid a drastic deterioration in its condition.

Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill responded by dismissing a senior priest who sided with the museum keepers in advising to keep the icon at the Tretyakov Gallery.

Kirill led a liturgy in the cathedral on Sunday, which was attended by hundreds of believers, including some officials.

## Russia’s most famous icon handed over from museum to church despite protests

**MOSCOW** (AP)—Russian Orthodox believers celebrated Trinity Sunday with Russia’s most famous icon transferred from a museum to Moscow’s main cathedral despite the keepers’ vociferous protests.

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## Daughter’s visits ‘home’ usually lead elsewhere

**DEAR ABBY:** My adult daughter is single and lives alone. She lives five hours away but manages to visit every two months or so. The problem is, when she comes home, we hardly ever see her. She’s mostly at her cousin’s house. During her most recent visit, we saw her a total of one hour a day the five days she was here—just enough time for her to come over, change clothes and leave again. She even sleeps there most nights.

I have asked her to spend more time with us, but we just end up arguing. She goes on vacation with them every year, but when I suggest we go on a family vacation, she always says, “I don’t have money for that.” I love her, but I’m beginning to feel used. Whenever she needs something, I’m the one she calls.

We have always butted heads, but my husband and I are getting older, and he has some health issues. I wish she would spend more time with him. I realize she wants to be with her friends when she’s here, but no one travels to her place to see her. She does all the traveling to see them. I would have no problem with friends coming to see her here at the house. Am I being selfish?

COMING IN SECOND

**DEAR SECOND:** You are not being selfish. You may, however, be unrealistic. You stated that you and your daughter have always “butted heads,” and this is the result.

**I’m doubtful that you can get the message across to her without her becoming defensive. Your husband and daughter may be overdue for a meaningful conversation about his health and his desire to spend time with her while he can. As for her relationship with you, it seems she has made her feelings quite clear.**

■■■

**DEAR ABBY:** Throughout the year, the department in which I work recognizes each employee’s birthday with a cake—except me. I have worked here for two years, and while my supervisor writes my birthday on a calendar that hangs in the front office, each year my birthday has come and gone without even a verbal acknowledgement. I watch as all the other employees in my department have their special day recognized with a cake brought in by the department supervisor.

I’m wondering why I was even asked when my birthday is and why it was written down if no mention is even made of it? My co-workers are all friendly with me, and I have never gotten the impression that I’m not liked, but I can’t help but wonder if something I have done has caused this.

If this isn’t something that is done for everyone, then it shouldn’t be done at all. Am I just being immature because my feelings are hurt by this? Would you say anything in a sit-

## DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



uation like this? I would appreciate your feedback and advice.  
EXCLUDED IN ALABAMA

■■■  
**DEAR EXCLUDED:** This is a question you should ask your supervisor because it likely was an oversight. Or, on your next birthday, bring a cupcake with a candle to the office and enjoy it with your lunch. (“Happy Birthday to ME!”) Then HIGHLIGHT it on the calendar.

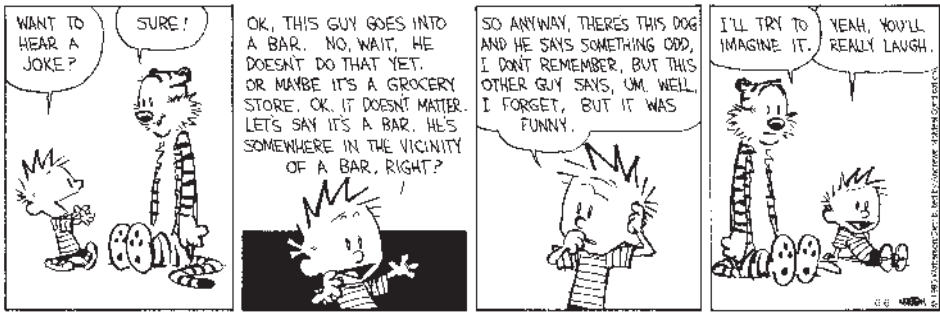
To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# Pastimes

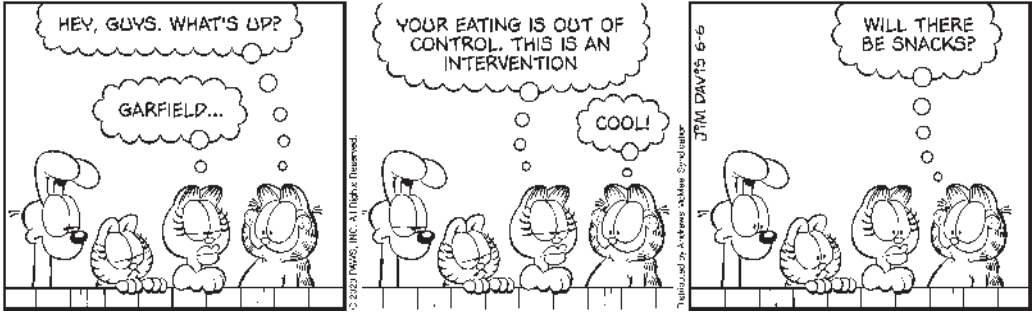
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



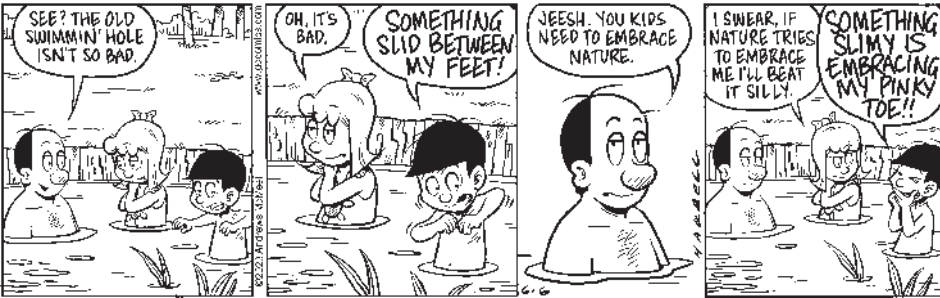
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Metric weight  
5 Cotillion celeb  
8 Sprint  
12 Air fresher  
13 Water (Fr.)  
14 Hockey legend  
15 Software trial  
17 Be inclined  
18 Twisty turn  
19 "What — you doing?"  
20 Condition  
21 Gorilla  
22 Sheepish remark  
23 Saunter  
26 "Funny!"  
30 Journey  
31 Prom rental  
32 Help a crook  
33 Main road

**DOWN**

1 Lakers legend  
2 Mid-month date  
3 Oodles  
4 Man-mouse link  
5 Plover  
6 Lighten  
7 However  
8 Helen  
9 Sailing  
10 Lovers' quarrel  
11 Sharpen  
16 Carton sealer  
20 — Paulo, Brazil  
21 Team leaders  
22 Jury enclosure  
23 Sports fig.  
24 Hosp. scan  
25 Ginormous  
26 Chap sash  
27 Kimono barrier  
28 Bug  
29 Sci-fi beings  
31 Pitch  
34 Victory  
35 Abound  
37 Landfills  
38 Beer ingredient  
39 Met solo  
40 Hankering  
41 Title for Judi Dench  
42 Hee-haw  
43 Seniors' org.  
44 Ballyhoo  
46 Care-free  
47 Performance

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 6-6**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Aubrey Anderson-Emmons, 16; Natalie Morales, 51; Paul Giamatti, 56; Robert Englund, 76.

**Happy Birthday:** Pay attention and think matters through. Haste makes waste. Get organized and declutter your life. The relief you get from minimizing your responsibilities will give you a new lease on life. A practical approach to whatever you do will make the road to success easy. Distance yourself from those who are poor influences and avoid overindulgence and pastimes that are financially, emotionally and physically costly. Your numbers are 9, 11, 21, 28, 30, 39, 44.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Networking functions will provide a substantial introduction and unique offer. Don't waste valuable time all by yourself when your input will put you in a position to spotlight what you can offer. Stick to basics to ensure everyone is aware of your potential. ★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Pick up the slack and handle business. Speak up about your concerns and intentions. A direct approach will attract attention and the support you need to reach your goal. Avoid poor behavior, and don't promise something you cannot deliver. ★★★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Impulsive action will lead to trouble. Someone will hold you accountable for your efforts and rhetoric. A change of attitude will help you redeem your position. Check out your options and take the route that experts suggest. Take your time and do what's best. ★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** You can help without going overboard. An impulsive offer to pay for or care for someone

else's responsibilities will backfire. Use your intelligence, make suggestions and point others in the right direction, but don't take over. Kindness and positive changes are favored. ★★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Slow down, be observant and avoid compromising offers. The changes you make for someone else must be equally suitable for you, or resentment will filter through. Put your energy where it counts, and proceed with an open mind and heart. ★★★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Mix business with pleasure. An event providing knowledge, entertainment and a chance to promote what you have to offer will lead to new connections and interest. The suggestions you receive will help you hone your skills and plans to meet demands. ★★★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Refuse to let laziness cost you. Focus on how you can make an impression, turn heads and get others to pitch in and help. Use charm, sincerity and a willingness to adjust to suit the needs of others. Avoid superfluity, and you'll gain respect. ★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Refuse to take on more than you can handle or to put up with someone taking advantage of you. Concentrate on what's important to you and what and who you enjoy most. Set the standard instead of letting others dictate what happens next. ★★★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Pay attention to your health and financial well-being. Don't let impulse take over. Spend only what's necessary and invest what's left into a long-term plan that offers stability and security. A joint venture is favored, and romance will enhance your day. ★★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Take a closer look at your surroundings and how it affects your relationships. Don't overreact or spend too much on something you can't afford or someone who expects too much from you. Use finesse and make your thoughts and intentions clear. ★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Hold on to what you've got. Don't listen to the hype or let someone lead you astray. Stick close to home and those you trust. Put time and energy into physical fitness, health and romantic gestures. ★★★★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** A steady pace, well-thought-out plan and people you can count on will help you reach your destination. Put in an affordable budget before you start, and you'll sleep easy knowing you can attain your goal without setbacks. ★★★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are demonstrative, ambitious and productive. You are moody and inflexible.

★: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★: Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

8 6 1 4 9 2  
9 7 8 3 5  
1 7 8 3 5  
5 7 8 3 5  
7 9 5 1 3 2  
2 8 4

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4 8 7 6 3 5 9 2 1  
3 9 5 2 8 1 4 6 7  
1 6 2 9 7 4 8 5 3  
7 5 1 4 9 8 2 3 6  
9 2 8 7 6 3 5 1 4  
6 4 3 1 5 2 7 8 9  
8 1 6 5 4 9 3 7 2  
2 3 9 8 1 7 6 4 5  
5 7 4 3 2 6 1 9 8

Difficulty: ★★ 6/6  
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## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DOUBLE 'OO' Solution: 5 letters

G L O O M Y F P N O O L L A B  
R O C A R T O O N S T O O L A  
O H O A F L O O R E S O O M M  
O O O S R W R C O C O O N O B  
V O K D E P P S O E M M D O O  
E K I O M N O O P S E O O Z O  
T A E H O O T O D O L O O B S  
A N H O O E O T O L O D R O L E  
N G T O R T O R O L O H F O I  
I A O O A H O D B O O S O K H  
D R O T D O O D S F P U O O T  
R O T L K O O R B O O M L O O  
O O I I R E T S O O R O A L O  
O H E I R L O O M O O N H H M  
C O O P E R A T E E H T O O S

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Aloof, Balloon, Bamboo, Bloom, Book, Boom, Brook, Broom, Carpool, Cartoon, Childhood, Cacaoon, Cookie, Cooperate, Coordinate, Door, Flood, Floor, Food, Foot, Gloomy, Goose, Groove, Hairloom, Hoof, Hook, Kangaroo, Look, Loose, Moon, Moose, Mushroom, Poodle, Proof, Rookie, Rooster, Scoop, Scooter, Shampoo, Smoothies, Soothe, Spoon, Stool, Tattoo, Tooth, Zoom  
Yesterday's Answer: Business  
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## STUMPED?

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# Heat roar back in the 4th quarter, beat Nuggets in Game 2

**DENVER (AP)**—Starting down a 2-0 deficit in the NBA Finals, as the visitors in a hostile arena where no road team had prevailed in more than two months, the Miami Heat decided to do what they've done throughout the postseason.

They found a way. Against all odds. Again.

The Heat tied the NBA Finals and had to overcome a monster 41-point effort from Nikola Jokic to do it. Gabe Vincent scored 23 points, Jimmy Butler and Bam Adebayo each had 21 and Heat beat the Denver Nuggets 111-108 in Game 2 on Sunday night.

"Our guys are competitors," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "They love these kind of moments."

Evidently.

They were down by as many as 15 points, down eight going into the fourth, and those numbers signified they were going to lose. Denver was 11-0 in these playoffs when leading by double digits at any point in a game, and 37-1 this season overall when leading by at least eight going into the fourth.

The Heat didn't care. They

outscored Denver 17-5 in the first 3:17 of the fourth to take the lead for good, eventually went up by 12, then frittered most of it away and had to survive a 3-point try by Jamal Murray as time expired.

"This is the finals," Adebayo said. "We gutted one out."

Game 3 is Wednesday in Miami.

Max Strus scored 14 and Duncan Robinson had 10—all of them in the fourth—for the Heat, who had a big early lead, then got down by as many as 15. They had no answers for Jokic, who was 16 of 28 from the floor, the last of those shots a 4-footer with 36 seconds left to get the Nuggets within three.

Denver elected not to foul on the ensuing Miami possession and it paid off. Butler missed a 3, and with a chance to tie, Murray missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer.

"I just contested it," Butler said. "Pretty glad that he missed it."

Denver lost at home for the first time since March 30, and for the first time in 10 home playoff games this year. And just as he did after a Game 1 win, Nuggets coach Michael



Miami Heat center Bam Adebayo, left, dunks while defended by Denver Nuggets forward Michael Porter Jr. (1) during the second half of Game 2 of basketball's NBA Finals, Sunday, June 4, 2023, in Denver.

Malone sounded the alarm after a Game 2 loss.

"Let's talk about effort," Malone said. "I mean, this is the NBA Finals and we're talking about effort. That's a huge concern of mine. You guys probably thought I was just making up some storyline after

Game 1 when I said we didn't play well. We didn't play well. ... This is not the preseason. This is not the regular season. This is the NBA Finals."

Murray had 18 points and 10 assists for Denver, while Aaron Gordon had 12 points and Bruce Brown scored 11.

"They just played hard, and like I said, it was more discipline," Murray said. "It's defeating when you're giving up mistake after mistake, and it's not them beating you, you're giving them open dunks or open shots. That's tough to come back from."

Strus, who was 0 for 10 in Game 1, had four 3-pointers in the first quarter of Game 2. Butler made a jumper with 4:56 left in the opening quarter to put Miami up 21-10, tying the second-biggest lead any opponent had built in Denver so far in these playoffs.

In a flash, it was gone—and then some.

The Nuggets outscored Miami 32-11 over the next 9 minutes, turning the double-digit deficit into a double-digit lead thanks to an absolute 3-point barrage.

In a 70-second span early in the second quarter, Denver got four 3s—more points than Miami got in that entire 9-minute stretch—and they came from four different players: Brown, then Jeff Green, then Murray, then Gordon.

Boom, boom, boom, and boom. Murray had five straight points to end the flurry, and Denver led 44-32

is cutting to the hoop, he's putting the ball on the floor, he's hitting a drop pass to Bam (Adebayo) and he's using his size to get to the rim on those cuts and put the ball down.

"It's a beautiful thing to see. We needed all of those contributions tonight."

Max Strus chipped in early, with four 3-pointers in the first quarter. This after going 0 for 10 in Game 1.

Robinson took it from there in the fourth.

"Just trying to play with a certain level of aggressiveness on offense, just to at least be out there and have my presence felt," Robinson said. "Obviously, it helps when the ball goes in, which you can't always control. But just really about taking the right shots and just being aggressive."

## Duncan Robinson sparks rally with big 4th quarter

**DENVER (AP)**—Duncan Robinson flexed and then flashed his mean face after a cutting layup.

No disrespect meant. The Miami Heat forward was just having a little fun in the fourth quarter.

Because for the opening three, Robinson hadn't taken a single shot. Turns out, he was simply saving his best for when his team needed him most.

Over a nearly two-minute spurt in the fourth quarter, Robinson scored all of his 10 points to spark a rally that sent the Heat to a 111-108 victory over the Denver Nuggets on Sunday night in Game 2 of the NBA Finals.

Robinson's surge helped turn an 83-75 deficit into a 88-85 lead that Miami wouldn't relinquish in tying

the series at one game apiece.

"I surprised myself with the fact that I pulled that one out," Robinson said about his spur-of-the-moment pose. "Mostly just try to play with a certain level of joy. I feel like I play my best when I'm having fun."

Robinson's line through three quarters was nearly 7 minutes of play and a whole bunch of zeroes—zero shots, zero rebounds, zero assists. He did have one foul.

But in the fourth, he was 4 of 5, including two 3-pointers, to help the Heat do something no other team has done this postseason—beat the Nuggets at home.

"He can be one of those guys who just breaks a game open," said Heat forward Kevin Love, who started Game 2, scoring six points

and grabbing 10 rebounds, after not playing a minute in Game 1. "We've seen that from him throughout these playoffs. His consistency and confidence has been there."

Robinson had a forgettable Game 1 when he went 1 for 6 from the floor. He just kept his cool and didn't read too much into one poor shooting performance.

He had a streaky series against Boston in the Eastern Conference finals, too. In Game 3 of that series, he had 22, then two in Game 4 and 18 in Game 5.

That's been his season in a nutshell. He's been in and out of the rotation all season.

"He does a lot of things that people don't know he has," Love explained. "They see him as a shooter, but he

and Heat coach Erik Spoelstra is a Portland native who vividly remembers Adelman's Trail Blazers teams.

"To be included with the past winners is special," said Rick Adelman, who was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2021. "Chuck was a great coach and respected by all those who coached against his teams. To receive an award like this I have to thank all those who helped me along the way, in particu-

lar my assistant coaches and front offices. I would also like to thank the players I had through the years. Their effort and cooperation made everything I did possible. Good players make coaching much easier."

Two of his former players are in these finals as well: Heat guard Kyle Lowry played for Adelman in Houston, and Heat forward Kevin Love played for him in Minnesota.

Spoelstra said Adelman

was one of his earliest influences.

"As I got older in high school and college, it was Rick," Spoelstra said. "I just loved the way he operated. He's been a big mentor to me. ... The Adelman kids, including David, and I've known David since he was probably 3, we were all running around the facility."

Rick Adelman is 10th in NBA history with 1,042 regular-season wins and 13th with 79 postseason wins.

## Rick Adelman selected as winner of Chuck Daly Lifetime Achievement Award

**DENVER (AP)**—Rick Adelman's influence is all over this year's NBA Finals, which makes his being honored during the title series even more fitting.

Adelman was announced Sunday as the 18th recipient of the Chuck Daly Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by the National Basketball Coaches Association. It preceded Game 2 of the NBA Finals between Denver and Miami; Nuggets assistant coach David Adelman is Rick's son,

He took the Blazers to the NBA Finals twice, falling in 1990 to Detroit and 1992 to Chicago.

He also coached Sacramento, Golden State, Minnesota and Houston.

"Rick Adelman's NBA coaching career has been highlighted by innovation, integrity and excellence," said Indiana coach and NBPA President Rick Carlisle. "His teams always played to their strengths, and Rick always found subtle ways to reinvent NBA basketball to help his players thrive. His quiet,

when it was over. It looked like everything was going Denver's way.

Miami insisted otherwise. And for the 44th time this season, the Heat won a game by five points or less. None of them was bigger than this one.

"When it comes down to the wire," Vincent said, "we're strangely comfortable."

Miami changed its starting lineup, with Kevin Love back in the opening five and Caleb Martin—who missed practice Saturday with an illness—coming off the bench. The Heat got their 13th win of these playoffs, breaking a tie with the 1999 New York Knicks for the most ever by a No. 8 seed.

Jokic became the 14th different player in NBA history to score at least 41 in a finals loss. Denver hadn't lost a game since May 7—four weeks ago. Nuggets legends Alex English, LaPhonso Ellis (who actually ended his NBA career with Miami) and David Thompson were among those in attendance.

Injured Heat guard Tyler Herro played 2-on-2 on Saturday as he continues his efforts to try to return from a broken hand at some point in these finals—but remained out. Herro got hurt in the first half of Game 1 of Round 1 at Milwaukee. His status for Game 3 is unclear.

Commissioner Adam Silver told NBA TV before the game that negotiations for the next media rights deal are now a priority since the new Collective Bargaining Agreement has been ratified—and how expansion talk will come after that.

Silver said he thinks the media deal negotiations will begin "in earnest probably this next spring." And after that, plans to add franchises will be the next item on the to-do list.

"We don't have anything specific in mind right now," Silver said. "But I think it makes sense over time if you're a successful organization to continue to grow. There's no doubt there's a lot of great cities we're interested in having in the NBA."

unassuming nature belies his impact as one of the great NBA coaches of all time."

Past winners of the Daly award include Mike Fratello (2022), Larry Brown (2021), Del Harris (2020), Frank Layden (2019), Doug Moe (2018), Al Attles and Hubie Brown (2017), K.C. Jones and Jerry Sloan (2016), Dick Motta (2015), Bernie Bickerstaff (2014), Bill Fitch (2013), Pat Riley (2012), Lenny Wilkens (2011), Jack Ramsay and Tex Winter (2010) and Tommy Heinsohn (2009).



# Hendriks gets win, Burger hits grand slam as White Sox beat Tigers for sweep



**CHICAGO**  
(AP)—Jake Burger's

game-ending grand slam handed Liam Hendriks his first win since returning from cancer, and the Chicago White Sox beat the Detroit Tigers 6-2 on Sunday for a three-game series sweep.

Hendriks (1-0) worked a 1-2-3 ninth, striking out two. It was the third big league appearance for the All-Star closer since he missed the start of the season after he was diagnosed with stage 4 non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

Yoán Moncada and Tim Anderson walked with one out to load the bases for Burger, who hit a drive to left-center off Alex Lange (3-1) for his 12th homer of the season. It was his first career slam and game-ending homer.

Spencer Torkelson hit a two-run homer for Detroit, which has dropped five of six. Matthew Boyd struck out nine while pitching five innings of one-run ball.

## YANKEES 4, DODGERS 1

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Anthony Rizzo scored the go-ahead run in the eighth inning on a grounder and New York edged Los Angeles.

Anthony Volpe provided some insurance with a two-run homer in the ninth for the Yankees, who were without AL MVP Aaron Judge, after he injured his right foot after crashing into the right-field bullpen door while making a running catch on Saturday.

J.D. Martinez homered for the Dodgers, who dropped the final two games in the series.

The Yankees' Domingo German and Los Angeles' Bobby Miller matched zeroes as the teams combined for only four hits in the first six innings.

Clay Holmes (4-2) pitched one inning to pick up the win, and Wandy Peralta got the last four outs for his fourth save.

Evan Phillips (1-1) took the loss.

## RANGERS 12, MARINERS 3

**ARLINGTON, Texas** (AP)—Marcus Semien extended MLB's longest hitting streak this season to 23 games, Jonah Heim homered and drove in five runs, and Texas' offense kept rolling.

Corey Seager also went deep as the Rangers won consecutive games by a combined score of 28-9 after taking the series opener 2-0. Nathan Eovaldi (8-2) pitched six scoreless innings for his seventh consecutive victory.

The AL West leaders scored at least 10 runs for a major league-leading 16th time in 58 games.

Seattle rookie Bryce Miller



Chicago White Sox's Jake Burger (30), center, is congratulated by teammates after hitting a grand slam during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Detroit Tigers in Chicago, Sunday, June 4, 2023.

(3-3) was tagged for seven runs and eight hits in 2 1/3 innings.

## RAYS 6, RED SOX 2

**BOSTON** (AP)—Yandy Díaz's sixth-inning RBI single turned into a two-run Little League homer, and the major league-best Rays beat the sloppy Red Sox.

Josh Lowe, Luke Raley and Díaz each had two hits for the Rays (42-19), who are 6-1 against AL East rival Boston this season.

Alex Verdugo had two doubles, a triple and scored twice for the last-place Red Sox.

Rays rookie Taj Bradley (4-2) gave up two runs and six hits in five innings.

Red Sox starter Tanner Houck (3-5) allowed four runs and five hits over five innings.

## BRAVES 8, DIAMONDBACKS 5

**PHOENIX** (AP)—Eddie Rosario hit a grand slam off Miguel Castro with two outs in the ninth inning, lifting Atlanta to the victory.

Arizona led 5-4 heading into the ninth after Ketel Marte hit a two-run homer and rookie Corbin Carroll connected for a solo shot.

Castro (3-2) appeared as if he might escape the jam after getting Travis d'Arnaud out on a soft liner, but Rosario just cleared the wall in right for his eighth homer.

A.J. Minter (3-5) got the win, and Raisel Iglesias worked around a walk in the ninth for his seventh save in eight chances.

## ANGELS 2, ASTROS 1

**HOUSTON** (AP)—Shohei Ohtani hit a tiebreaking RBI double in the eighth inning, and the Angels avoided a four-game series sweep.

Ohtani was hitless before clubbing a pitch from Phil Maton (0-1) off the wall in

right field, driving in Gio Urshela for a 2-1 lead. The clutch swing gave Ohtani 41 RBIs on the season.

Luis Rengifo hit his third homer for Los Angeles, which stopped a three-game slide. Chris Devenski (3-0) pitched 1 2/3 scoreless innings for the win against his first major league team, and Carlos Estévez got four outs for his 14th save.

Yainer Díaz connected for Houston, and Alex Bregman also had two hits. Bregman extended his hitting streak to 11 games.

## BLUE JAYS 6, METS 4

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Brandon Belt broke a seventh-inning tie with a two-run homer, and the Blue Jays finished a three-game sweep.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. also went deep for the Blue Jays, who blew a four-run lead but quickly recovered. Toronto has won four straight and six of seven.

Tommy Pham hit two of New York's four solo homers. Pete Alonso and Starling Marte also connected for the Mets, who completed a 3-3 homestand that started with a three-game sweep of Philadelphia.

Nate Pearson (3-0) gave up Alonso's major league-leading 21st homer and Marte's tying drive in the sixth before Toronto regained the lead against Dominic Leone (0-2). Jordan Romano tossed a 1-2-3 ninth for his 15th save.

## GUARDIANS 2, TWINS 1

**MINNEAPOLIS** (AP)—Triston McKenzie tossed five scoreless innings in his injury-delayed season debut, and Cleveland's Josh Naylor delivered a breakthrough RBI double in the seventh.

McKenzie had 10 strikeouts and only one baserun-

ner, a two-out single by Michael Taylor in the third. The 25-year-old right-hander had been sidelined by a muscle strain in his shoulder.

Twins starter Joe Ryan (7-3) was just as sharp as McKenzie until José Ramírez drew a two-out walk in the seventh. Naylor followed with a drive off the limestone facade that juts out over the right-field wall, putting the Guardians on the board.

Andrés Giménez then greeted Caleb Thielbar with an RBI triple.

Willi Castro homered for the Twins.

James Karinchak (2-4) got the win, and Emmanuel Clase posted his MLB-best 19th save with a scoreless ninth inning.

## ORIOLES 8, GIANTS 3

**SAN FRANCISCO** (AP)—Josh Lester drove in two runs for Baltimore with his first major league hit, and Tyler Wells won for the first time in his last four starts.

James McCann reached base three times for Baltimore, including his third home run. Adley Rutschman added two hits and Ryan Mountcastle drew a bases-loaded walk to help the Orioles to their 13th series victory of the season. A year ago, Baltimore didn't win its 13th series until July 13.

Blake Sabol hit a two-run homer for the Giants. Anthony DeSclafani (4-5) allowed five earned runs in three innings.

Wells (4-2) had a career-high nine strikeouts in 5 1/3 innings, including two in four of the first five innings.

## CUBS 7, PADRES 1

**SAN DIEGO** (AP)—Marcus Stroman pitched six sharp innings and Miguel Amaya hit his first big league homer, leading the Cubs to the victory.

Yan Gomes and Trey Mancini connected for back-to-back homers for Chicago in

the second. Amaya drove in Gomes with a two-run shot in the third, lifting the Cubs to a 7-0 lead.

Stroman (6-4) allowed an unearned run and four hits. He struck out six and walked three in his fourth consecutive win.

Fernando Tatis Jr. had two of San Diego's five hits. Ryan Weathers (1-4) was tagged for five runs and seven hits in 1 2/3 innings.

## PIRATES 2, CARDINALS 1

**PITTSBURGH** (AP)—Rich Hill pitched four-hit ball into the seventh inning, and the Pirates beat the Cardinals for a three-game series sweep.

Ji Hwan Bae's two-run single off Miles Mikolas (4-2) in the first provided all the offense Hill would need. Ke'Bryan Hayes singled three times and is hitting .562 (9 for 16) over his last four games.

The 43-year-old Hill (5-5) struck out six in 6 2/3 innings. David Bednar worked the ninth for his 13th save and third in as many days.

Andrew Knizner hit his seventh homer for St. Louis in the seventh inning. Luken Baker—called up to the majors for the first time early Sunday—picked up the first two hits of his career. But the Cardinals lost for the fifth time in six games.

## BREWERS 5, REDS 1

**CINCINNATI** (AP)—Adrian Houser pitched seven sparkling innings and Andruw Monasterio hit his first career homer, leading the Brewers to the victory.

Victor Caratini also went deep as Milwaukee (32-27) won for the fourth time in five games. The NL Central-leading Brewers also clinched their first road series win since they swept a three-game set at Seattle from April 17-19.

Houser (2-1) allowed six

hits, including Jake Frealey's seventh homer in the seventh.

Cincinnati (26-33) dropped its fourth straight game. Reds right-hander Ben Lively (3-3) was charged with five runs and six hits in seven innings in his first loss since May 19.

## PHILLIES 11, NATIONALS 3

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Kyle Schwarber hit two three-run homers, and the Phillies beat the Nationals in the rubber game of their weekend set.

Philadelphia's Drew Ellis hit his first two homers of the season. J.T. Realmuto went deep for the second day in a row for the Phillies, who finished a 4-6 road trip. Nick Castellanos had three hits.

Phillies left-hander Ranger Suárez (1-2) pitched seven innings of one-run ball.

Ildemaro Vargas hit a two-run homer for Washington. Trevor Williams (2-4) was charged with four runs and six hits in 5 2/3 innings.

## MARLINS 7, ATHLETICS 5

**MIAMI** (AP)—Luis Arraez hit a tiebreaking infield single in the eighth inning, and Miami beat Oakland to complete a three-game series sweep.

Joey Wendle doubled against A's reliever Austin Pruitt to lead off the inning, and then advanced on Jacob Stallings' single. Stallings took second on right fielder Ramon Laureano's throw to the plate as Wendle remained at third.

Sam Moll relieved Pruitt (1-3) and struck out pinch-hitter Jorge Soler before Arraez's hard smash over a drawn-in infield bounced off second baseman Aledmys Díaz's glove to give Miami a 6-5 lead. Nick Fortes ran for Stallings and scored from third on Shea Langeliers' passed ball.

Garrett Cooper went deep for the Marlins. Tanner Scott (4-1) got the win, and Dylan Floro closed with a perfect ninth for his sixth save.

## ROYALS 2, ROCKIES 0

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** (AP)—Brady Singer pitched five-hit ball into the sixth inning, leading the last-place Royals to the victory.

Michael Massey hit an RBI single in the fifth for Kansas City. Maikel Garcia led off the eighth with his first major league homer.

Singer (4-4) struck out seven and walked none in 5 2/3 innings. Scott Barlow worked the ninth for his seventh save.

Mike Moustakas and Nolan Jones each had two of Colorado's eight hits. Kyle Freeland (4-7) allowed four hits in seven-plus innings.



# Kanoa FC, Shirley's FC undefeated in Premier soccer

By LEIGH GASES  
leigh\_gases@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Kanoa Football Club and Shirley's Football

Club are currently undefeated coming out of Week 3 in the Tinekcha-Awaal Premier Division of the 2023 Dove Women's League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Kolerville last Wednesday.

Kanoa blanked NMI U17 WDT, 10-0, in the first game, while Shirley's out-goaled Take Care, 6-2.

The barrage of attacks began early as just two minutes into the game, Aubrey Castro scored the first goal.

The girls of the NMI U17 team were not given any chances and it was all Kanoa for the rest of the first half when Ye Lynn Ha kicked two into the goal in the 11th and 16th minute.

Heading into the second half, both teams could not locate the net as the minutes ticked by without a goal. Kanoa was up by three at this point and finally the silence was broken in the 43rd minute by Mary Kay Alfaro, and it became a 4-0 game.

It was back-to-back goals for Kanoa from then on as Castro scored another in the 44th minute, one goal was made by Mia Abuan in the 46th, one in the 49th by Christina Atalig, and one by Kaithlyn Chavez in the 52nd minute.

The girls of the U17 team were running ragged on the pitch as they still could not kick the ball into the net and as the final minutes wound



In this file photo, Kanoa FC's Khristelle Itaas, center, goes after the ball during their Premier Division game at the NMI Soccer Training Center.

LEIGH GASES

down, Chavez rounded up her goals with a hat trick in the 79th minute, for a 10-0 game.

In the second game of the night, Shirley's scored the majority of their goals early.

Four goals were made in the first half as Jannah Casarino completed her hat trick by the 28th minute. Rizza Relucio scored one in the 19th minute.

For Take Care, Tamia Kileleman-Hix scored their first goal in the 10th minute, but their offense went silent after that.

Before Take Care could even score their second and last goal, Shirley's scored their fifth goal in the 71st minute made by Relucio.

Take Care's Summer Manahane scored their last goal in the 76th minute and Shirley's Casarino scored their sixth and final goal in the 79th minute.

In the standings, Kanoa and Shirley's are on top with an identical 2-1-0 record; Take Care is at 1-0-2; and the NMI U17 team have no wins yet at 0-0-3.

## Chamber golf registration deadline until Friday

Join the Saipan Chamber of Commerce for its upcoming annual golf tournament on June 17 at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

This fundraising event supports the Saipan Chamber Scholarship Program, which provides financial assistance to local students pursuing higher education and other SCC programs that benefit the community.

The tournament offers golfers of all skill levels the

opportunity to compete for fantastic cash prizes, including \$800 for first place, \$650 for second place, and \$500 for third place.

Additionally, players will receive complimentary swag bags courtesy of Chamber members, on-course refreshments, and post-tournament refreshments.

The tournament showtime is at 6am and shotgun starts

at 7am on June 17, following player refreshment banquet. The registration fee for each team is \$280, and tickets for amazing raffle prizes will be available for purchase during registration and throughout the tournament.

Registration forms for players are accessible for download on the Chamber website ([www.saipanchamber.com](http://www.saipanchamber.com)), LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort

(front desk), and the Chamber office located at the Marianas Business Plaza, 2nd Floor, Suite 201-A.

Registrations are ongoing until Friday, June 9, at 12pm. The Chamber encourages golfers to submit their forms and fees by Friday, June 9, at the Chamber office to simplify their day-of check-in and facilitate payment of registration, raffle tickets, and optional play contests before the tournament.



The Chamber appreciates the ongoing support of its generous members, golfers, and volunteers, and eagerly anticipates hosting an exciting event for a worthy cause!

For more information about the event or the Chamber, visit their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/saipanchamber](http://www.facebook.com/saipanchamber), visit our office in the Marianas Business Plaza Suite 201-A (Susupe), or contact Tasha Bahillo @ [t.bahillo@saipanchamber.org](mailto:t.bahillo@saipanchamber.org) or call our office at (670) 234-7150. (PR)

## NO PRESSURE

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to be tough."

But, even with that, his strategy for the tournament is to play while having fun. "I know I have to play well, I know that I have to win or get points for my world ranking. I know all those things. But I don't want to put pressure on [myself]. So, I'll just try to have fun with every point and in every match."

About the venue, which is

at the newly renovated Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium in Oleai, Cordon said that it's really nice. "It's really nice. The problem with some of the venues [is that] sometimes the lights are too high, but here, it's really good to play. So, let's see what happens. We thought it's going to be really hot, but right now it's not."

Cordon is currently ranked No. 46 in the world.

In a separate interview with the coach for the NMI National Badminton Team, Ezekiel Macario, he said that the

tournament will be "very challenging, but we're going to be putting our best effort and hopefully make everybody proud with our performance."

He said the strength of the NMI team is their hard work. "We have a strong mentality. We don't give up and we're resilient."

For the teams that they look forward to challenging, Macario said Chinese-Taipei would be the strongest team. "But really, we're looking forward to playing with everybody and getting experience. I

think that's the best part about playing against everybody."

The NMI is hosting back-to-back 2024 Paris Olympic Games qualifying tournaments—the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2023 starting today, Tuesday, June 6—and the TakeCare Saipan International 2023. The former's qualifying round games will run from 3pm to 4pm, while main draw games will follow suit and take place until 9pm.

Tomorrow's action will be from 10am to 9pm; Thurs-

day's games are from 12pm to 9pm; and Friday is from 1pm to 9pm. Semis matches on Saturday will be from 1pm to 9pm, while finals in the men's and women's singles and

men's, women's, and mixed doubles are slated for Sunday, June 11, from 12pm to 5pm. The same schedule will be in effect for the Saipan International 2023.

## BLUE

From Page 20

slice their deficit to just 49-43 heading into the fourth and final canto.

That's when Jet Jandoc saved his best for last as the lanky forward unloaded all of his 8 points and got help from Ashburn's 6 points to lead Blue Eagle to the 7-point win.

Ashburn and Reign led Blue Eagle with 16 points apiece, while A's Car Aircon got a game-high 27 points from Bisana and 18 points from sharpshooter Bernard Montano. De Guzman wound up with 10 points also in a losing cause.

Blue Eagle now takes on Blue Haus tonight starting at

7:30pm. The winner advances to the finals. The loser, meanwhile, will take on the winner of the of Ol'Aces-A's Car Aircon match set also for tonight at 6pm. Blue Haus won via forfeit against Ol'Aces last Saturday.

Results of last night's matches in the open division will be reported in tomorrow's issue of Saipan Tribune.

**Blue Eagle/Royal Pacific 74** – Ashburn 16, Reign 16, Villarin 10, Javier 10, Jondoc 8, Francisco 7, Estolas 5, Echavez 2.

**A's Car Aircon 67** – Bisana 27, Montano 18, De Guzman 19, Fundador 4, Pangelinan 4, Tibayan 2, Manabat 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 17-8, 35-26, 49-43, 74-67.

## LADY

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wrote as they were shut down with the last out.

In the Hot Shots-Lady Legals game, the Lady Legals struck first but their efforts came to nought as the Hot Shots rallied in the last innings.

The Lady Legals made three runs in the first inning after a defending error and back-to-back base hits by Lizann Deleon Guerrero and Pauline Camacho. The second inning was a four-run inning as the bottom of the lineup made good contact and produced three RBI singles and a triple by Tiah Camacho.

The next five innings amounted to zero runs for the Lady Legals as they were shut down by Hot Shots pitcher Janice Celis.

The Hot Shots were down by five runs heading into the fourth inning, but that's when their offense came alive as they brought in five runs. Mardina Kaipat started it off with a single and was

brought in by a fielding error to Janica Lizama.

Three more RBI singles were made before their three outs, but it was enough as they squeezed in one more run in the last inning to steal the W away from the Lady Legals.

Results of the men's division will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.





Heat roar back in the 4th quarter, beat Nuggets in Game 2.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Kanoa FC, Shirley's FC undefeated in Premier soccer.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## 'No pressure' for top seed heading into tourney

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

The top seed in badminton, 36-year-old Olympian Kevin Cordon of Guatemala arrived Sunday along with other badminton players from around the world.

In an interview, the Olympian who made it to the semifinals in the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games said he doesn't feel pressured heading into the Crowne Plaza Northern Marianas Open 2023 which starts today at 3pm. "Actually, when you are serious, you will feel pressure, but sometimes you're lucky..." In fact, he said he is excited to play in the Oceania region again in this 2024 Paris Olympic Games qualifying tournament here in Saipan, as he has played in New Zealand in 2009. Before this tournament,

Cordon actually played three weeks ago in a tournament in Mexico.

Cordon followed the road to this Olympic qualifier in the CNMI as the Olympic qualifiers first started last May. He said a lot of tournaments were happening around the world such as in Denmark and France in Europe. They then had to decide to play the tournament in Saipan when it came down to choosing where he would play.

As for what he expects the level of competition in the tournament to be, he said it'll be a strong competition. "It's going to be hard. These players from Asian countries—it's going

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Robert Cordon, Olympian badminton player from Guatemala, at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Sunday.

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## Lady Blue Jays, Hot Shots overpower opponents in BASA

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER



The Lady Blue Jays and the Hot Shots overpowered their opponents in the 2023 Budweiser Belau

Amateur Softball Association League playoffs at the Dan-Dan Softball Field last Sunday.

In the first game in the morning, the Lady Blue Jays defeated BDE, 11-4, while Hot Shots slipped past the Lady Legals, 8-7, in the afternoon.

The Lady Blue Jays brought their red-hot offense into the playoffs and remained undefeated as they held BDE to just four runs.

The Lady Blue Jays struck first in the first inning with three runs, while BDE could not find holes in the Lady Blue Jays' defense.

BDE were shut down back-

to-back through the whole game as Lady Blue Jays pitcher Angel Deleon Guerrero was in the zone and induced many ground balls that led to easy outs.

The fifth inning was when the Lady Blue Jays exploded as they brought in five runs. A lead-off double by Christie Aldan started it off. Bong Ba-

bauta hit an RBI single, followed by another RBI single by Destiny Pangelinan and Kianu Aldan.

Kiana "Baby K" Camacho then hit an RBI triple and it was not over yet as Rachel Salalia hit an RBI double. The last inning was a two run inning as Camacho hit a two-run home run.

BDE players were only able to round the bases home in the last inning. Keina Rogopes started the last-minute run for a rally with a base hit. Two batters after her walked and were brought in after a single by Mabel Glare. Another single was hit by Ikellau Ngirarois, but that was all they

**See LADY on Page 19**



LEIGH GASES  
Lady Blue Jays shortstop Keanu Aldan leaps for a fly ball as a BDE player stays put on second base during their playoff game of the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association league last Sunday at the DanDan Softball Field.

## Blue Eagle topples top seed A's Car Aircon

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR



Blue Eagle/Royal Pacific upset top seed A's Car Aircon, 74-67, as the playoffs of the masters division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League resumed last Thursday at the Civic Center Basketball Court.

Blue Eagle jumped the gun on A's Car Aircon from the get-go, as Andrew Ashburn and Melvin Villarin com-

bined for 9 points to give them a 17-8 lead after the first quarter.

It was mammoth center De Shawn Reign and pint-sized point guard Mark Francisco's turn to puncture the hoop come the second quarter, as the duo combined for 9 points to push Blue Eagle to a 35-26 spread at the half.

A's Car Aircon rallied at the start of the third quarter and managed to outscore Blue Eagle, 17-14, thanks to the efforts of Cecilio Bisana and Jorge De Guzman to

**See BLUE on Page 19**



MARK RABAGO  
Blue Eagle/Royal Pacific's De Shawn Reign, seen here in a file photo, scored 16 points in their 74-67 win against A's Car Aircon in the masters division of the 2nd Annual Saipan Centennial Lions Basketball League last Thursday at the Civic Center Basketball Court.